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Baltic Council of Ministers To Promote Cooperation

LD1306150094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The Baltic Council of Ministers which was set up today should provide a firm basis for Baltic cooperation. Anne Osvet reports.

[Osvet] During the Baltic prime ministers' meeting in Tallinn today the foundations were laid, among other things, for yet another cooperation body. I asked for more clarification from Alar Olljum, deputy chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Olljum recording] As of today, the Baltic Council of Ministers has been set up. [passage omitted] The agreement which was signed today by the prime ministers of the Baltic states is to regulate cooperation between the newly formed Baltic Council of Ministers and the Baltic Assembly. This has been a firm desire, with Baltic parliamentary deputies, who were (?promoting) it already last fall when a scheduled Baltic Assembly meeting took place here in Tallinn. It was again repeated in Jurmala in Latvia [words indistinct]. The prime ministers are to decide the directions for the actual cooperation but I think that (?it will be what was discussed before), with economic cooperation and cooperation on security matters forming the most important (?spheres). Added to this will be energy problems, border issues [words indistinct]; we will, for example, begin talks with Latvia on the sea border. [end recording]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Jun

LD1506070194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532 GMT 15 Jun 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

Moscow June 15 TASS—Russian newspapers report President Boris Yeltsin's arrival in the far eastern city of Blagoveshchensk, the results of the founding congress of Russia's Democratic Choice party, which was created on the basis of Russia's Choice movement headed by Yegor Gaydar, and comment on presidential decrees.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Russia's Democratic Choice party congress:

"The choice has been made in favour of a party. This means that illusions about a broad democratic orientation in post-Soviet society in Russia are finally receding into the past".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the same subject.

"The congress went off well but nevertheless Russia's Democratic Choice party did not manage to resolve all differencies in its ranks. It can be supposed that main struggle inside the party still lies ahead, since Russia's Democratic Choice party is an organisation with a strong Moscow-based centre and weak regions. However, the centre itself is not monolithic either".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article headlined "Russia's Foreign Policy" by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin. The writer of the article expesses his ideas in connection with the newspaper's earlier published article "Strategy for Russia" ("theses of the council on foreign and defence policies".

Adamishin believes, in particular, that "when advocating rapprochement with the west, which of cardinal importance for Russia, one should do so not by belittling what divides us, for we run the risk of deceiving ourselves, but must have a realistic understanding of the fact that the change of course from confrontation to cooperation, which in itself is exceptionaly salutary for Russia, does not guarantee positive-to-Russia solutions to problems that are inevitably encountered in the pursuance of this course in practice."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's tour of Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku:

"Notwithstanding the lack of specific accords in Baku, the tour can be regarded as succesful. The present round of military diplomacy strengthens Russia's positions in the Transcaucasus".

PRAVDA carries an article about Yuriy Andropov, former KGB chief and subsequently the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, on the strength of reminiscences by people from his entourage, who worked side by side with him for many years.

TRUD comments on presidential decrees signed last Friday:

"As we see it, the new decrees are quite topical and are designed to expedite the reform process. It is important that they begin to work, not remain on paper. Much in this respect will depend on the government's ability and purposefulness..."

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA analyses the presidenttial decree on allocations to Russia's social insurance fund:

"Presidential decree no.1,004 is certain to get on a list of inane deeds of Russian reformers. At the hardest time, the state leaves the work collectives at the mercy of fate, depriving them of last support".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on North Korea's decision to withdraw from the International Atomic Energy Agency:

"The seriousness of the situation that has arisen in view of the statement is also compounded by the fact that North Korea continues to equate possible U.N. sanctions agains itself with a declaration of war. It follows from the North Korean Foreign Minustry statement that an expansion of sanctions, would entail a wider scope of Pyongyang's 'protective measures'".

Yeltsin Announces Agreement With Clinton on DPRK

LD1406114094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Russia and the United States have decided to request a UN Security Council debate on convening an international conference on North Korea and sanctions against it. As is known, Pyongyang has announced its withdrawal from the nuclear nonproliferation accord.

An appropriate Russian-American agreement was reached by the presidents of the two countries in a telephone conversation Monday night. In an interview with Interfax at Moscow airport, before flying off to the Far East on Tuesday, Boris Yeltsin reported that he had a detailed discussion with Bill Clinton on the North Korea issue, which he described "as a very serious matter," and about a resolution being drafted by the UN Security Council in regard to North Korea's nuclear program.

As a Yeltsin's spokesman explained after the conversation, the resolution on North Korea being drafted by the UN Security Council "should express along equal lines the possibility of both sanctions and an international conference for a comprehensive solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula."

In Yeltsin's words, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher are to meet in Brussels Wednesday-Thursday to scrutinize the issue.

He also revealed that the issue of his visit to the United States next September had been set for good in his conversation with Clinton. During that visit, he intends to make a speech at the UN General Assembly. A tentative date for the address, according to him, is September 25.

Asked whether Russia could sign an agreement on partnership with the European Council at an EC summit in Corfu, Yeltsin replied: "I have been informed that an agreement with the EC is basically prepared. This is no good. When I am told it's completely ready, then I'll go for sure."

Meanwhile, as Interfax has learned, a group assigned to prepare a trip for Yeltsin has already been to Corfu. It was led by the Protocol Service's Chief Vladimir Shevschenko. A team of Russian experts is going to that Greek island soon.

Speaking about his current working tour of the Amur Region and Tuva, Yeltsin noted that he intended to learn more about regional problems on the spot and added that, in his opinion, Chinese, Japanese, and South Korean investments could be highly instrumental for the economic advancement of those areas.

Russia Supports Phased Sanctions

SK1406114194 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, June 14 (YONHAP)—Russia would agree to phased sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang seeks to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Tuesday.

In an airport press conference prior to his departure for a local tour, Yeltsin said, "If North Korea tries to push ahead with its withdrawal from the NPT, Russia would convene an emergency international meeting and agree to phased sanctions against Pyongyang."

He said he had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton Monday on the North Korean nuclear question and Korean situation.

Russian televisions and radios reported that in their telephone talks, it was agreed that President Yeltsin would make an official visit to the United States in coming autumn.

One of the major topics of the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting would be the North Korean nuclear question in addition to the issue of bilateral economic cooperation, they said.

Meanwhile, an ITAR-TASS report said a senior Chinese Defense Ministry official on Monday gave a strong-worded message to Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the North Korean People's Army, that North Korea should not depart from its being a non-nuclear country.

Yeltsin Interviewed Prior to Departure for Tuva

LD1406155394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Tuesday, President Yeltsin set out to the Amur Region and to Tuva (Russia's constituent republic in southeastern Siberia). On the eve of his departure, he was interviewed by Interfax corespondent Boris Grishchenko.

Speaking about the goals of his trip, Yeltsin said that both of these far-away regions were "historically ill-fated", because despite their enormous riches they still remained economically and socially backward. The numerous state programs drafted in the Soviet time failed to bring about the expected results, he said.

Yeltsin also noted that he did not intend to propose any programs. "I will take decisions on the spot," he said. "It's clear, however," he went on to say, "that this region is badly underfinanced. It is rich in gold, coal, oil and other mineral resources which can benefit the people. I hope, therefore, that my visit will help encourage foreign

companies—Chinese, Japanese and Korean (the Republic of Korea - Interfax) to invest in the local economy."

He also announced that on Monday evening, he held lengthy telephone talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The two presidents will urge the U.N. Security Council to hold an international conference on the North Korean nuclear problem and on international sanctions against that country. "This is an extremely serious issue," said Yeltsin.

The Russian president's press service circulated a press release on Tuesday which says that the U.N. Security Council is drafting a resolution on the North Korean nuclear problem. "Possible sanctions and the idea of holding an international conference on the comprehensive solution of the problems facing the Korean Peninsula must be equally reflected in this document," says the press release.

To quote Yeltsin, on Wednesday or Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet in Brussels to discuss the North Korean nuclear problem.

Yeltsin also said that he had accepted Clinton's invitation to visit the U.S. next September. While in the U.S. he is also planning to deliver a policy speech during the U.N General Assembly. "This is likely to happen on September 25," he said.

Speaking about the possibility of signing an agreement on partnership with the EC during the meeting of the European Union leaders in the island of Corfu, Yeltsin said: "I was told the agreement had been almost drafted. This is no good. I will go, when I'm told that the agreement is completely prepared."

According to Interfax sources, a group preparing Yeltsin's visit to Corfu, led by Chief of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, has arrived in Corfu. A team of Russian experts is to fly out to Corfu soon.

Informed Moscow sources believe that during his trip to Siberia and the Far East Yeltsin will give his go-ahead to the construction of Russia's Far Eastern cosmodrome in the city of Svobodny-18 (the Amur Region). Yeltsin is expected to visit this city during his stay in Blagoveshchensk.

A spokesman for the Russian Military Space Forces told Interfax that a feasibility study was being carried out on commission from the Russian government. IF Note: Previously, Svobodny-18 accommodated a strategic missile division. The work to rebuild this facility and adjust it to small boosters Rokot and space modules for them has got underway.

Commander of the Russian Military Space Forces Vladimir Ivanov stated that the first rocket would be launched in 1996 from one of the five silos saved after the disbandment of the division in accordance with the treaty on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons.

In the future, Svobodny-18 will accommodate a new launching complex for heavy boosters Angara-24. Compared to the Proton boosters currently in use, the Angara-24 boosters will have higher ecological standards and be able to carry heavier payloads.

Duma Speaker Shares Yeltsin Views on DPRK Sanctions

LD1406142194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin fully shares President Yeltsin's view that international sanctions against North Korea should be coordinated with UN members and imposed gradually. As the chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, Sergey Yushenkov, told Interfax, Rybkin expressed this agreement with Yeltsin's view on Tuesday, when receiving a parliamentary delegation from Britain.

Led by the chairman of the Standing Commission for Defense of the House of Commons, Nicholas Bonsor, the delegation took part in Tuesday's round-table conference on collective security in Europe held at the lower chamber of Russia's parliament.

Interfax's correspondent reports that on Wednesday British MPs intend to visit Russia's Defense Ministry, Institute for Strategic Studies and a military unit.

Thursday evening they will leave for Kiev.

Kozyrev, Christopher Discuss DPRK 'Problem'

LD1506014994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a telephone conversation on Tuesday. They discussed the North Korean problem and in particular, the status of North Korea following its official announcement that it resigns from the IAEA. Both sides agreed that the announcement had the most serious consequences and that the United States and Russia would continue to hold close consultations through their representatives in the United Nations. They also discussed the question of Russia joining the Partnership for Peace program.

Commentary Views DPRK Situation, Sanctions

SK1506063694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Commentary by Solton from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The Korean Foreign Ministry stated that Pyongyang would withdraw immediately from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Station commentator Solton writes on it as follows:

The decision Pyongyang adopted means in fact that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The Foreign Ministry statement said that Korea will realize the nuclear plan independently from now on and that it will not allow the international inspectors to enter the nuclear facilities.

This is a dangerous decision that would bring about the gravest consequences. By closing the door to the international inspection team, Korea supports the suspicion that it either already has a nuclear weapon or intends to develop one.

The Korean leaders claim that their nuclear development is peaceful in nature. Then why does Pyongyang avoid international inspection and intimidate the world community? Why does Pyongyang warn that sanctions would mean merciless war, while daring to subject itself to sanctions?

This could be interpreted to be designed for internal purposes. At any rate, the situation on the Korean peninsula is aggravating, and this is causing serious worries for neighboring countries, including Russia.

The presidents of Russia and the United States discussed the issue over the telephone yesterday. President Yeltsin and President Clinton exchanged views about the resolution being prepared by the UN Security Council. Both the possible sanctions and the plan to call international meetings should be equally reflected in the resolution to ensure the security of the North and the South and to ensure the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

There is still enough time to overcome the dangerous situation ensuing from Pyongyang's decision to withdraw from the IAEA by sheer political means rather than by resorting to sanctions. However, unless Pyongyang shows a good-intentioned, sincere attitude for the solution of the problem, it will be impossible to solve the problem without resorting to sanctions.

Commentator on DPRK 'Publicity Stunt'

LD1406192194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer Yevgeniy Grachev] The main news drawing everyone's attention abroad is the statement by the Foreign Ministry of North Korea on the pullout of the DPRK from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The Agency monitors how the nonproliferation treaty is being observed. The statement was the subject of numerous telephone conversations between heads of states and governments. One such conversation took place between the Russian and U.S. Presidents. But the most interesting thing is that 24 hours after its statement on withdrawing from the IAEA, North Korea has sent no official notification about it to anybody as yet. We have already reported this in our Mayak Panorama. And now the report has set us wondering how this situation has arisen. I would like to put this question to my colleague, observer Vladimir Pasko.

[Pasko] You know, Yevgeniy Tikhonovich, this is not the only puzzling thing. Having announced its withdrawal from the IAEA, Pyongyang let it be known at the same time that it had not yet left the non-proliferation treaty. I will remind you that last year during a very similar conflict with the IAEA over inspections, Pyongyang was so careless as to state that it intended to pull out of the treaty. But having seen what reaction that decision had provoked, Pyongyang realized that it had gone too far and backtracked, saying that it would suspend its decision. So, now it has confirmed that that formula continues [two-second break in transmission] without stepping over the line which must not be crossed. But at the same time it has been loudly stating that it would not allow any unjust inspections of its nuclear sites.

[Grachev] In other words, as I understand it, Pyongyang is now in limbo, as it were. It is both party to the treaty and yet it does not subscribe to it.

[Pasko] All this, in my view, is just a publicity game, what is more, it is a publicity stunt for the benefit of the domestic, North Korean audience, since these verbal histrionics will mislead nobody else. Representatives of the IAEA said that they believe North Korea to be party to the non-proliferation treaty, and that as this is the case it is obliged to abide by all the requirements which are imposed on it by the treaty, including inspection of its nuclear sites for collecting information about the North Korean nuclear program. Pyongyang is refusing to let the inspectors in, while the IAEA, because of the absence of the information, is refusing to confirm that North Korea is not engaged in developing nuclear weapons.

[Grachev] You know, judging by the publications which I have read, nothing is clear.

[Pasko] You know, the argument over inspection is nevertheless of fundamental importance. If Pyongyang triumphs in this argument, it will set a precedent for others to start refusing inspection, and yet the IAEA is the only body guarding the non-proliferation treaty. To undermine its authority is tantamount to sawing off the branch on which one is sitting.

[Grachev] Then the question is how the DPRK can be made to comply with the IAEA's demands.

[Pasko] You know, sanctions are not out of the question. But a number of countries believe that there is no rush here. Pyongyang has been cunningly playing on this. Curiously, the statement in question was made prior to the meeting of the Security Council which must discuss the report by the IAEA and its decisions to stop technical aid to the DPRK. It is possible that the Council will raise the issue of sanctions. In its statement, Pyongyang reduces the essence of the argument with the IAEA to the issue of inspection, implying that this is too trifling a crime for a punishment as severe as sanctions.

[Grachev] That is not a trifling matter.

[Pasko] Some think, whether you want it or not, that this behavior means that Pyongyang keeps the door ajar for dialogue. But one cannot help seeing that the bargaining campaign which Pyongyang whipped up around inspection is fundamentally impermissible. The nonproliferation treaty is not an object for bargaining or exploitation. It can only be observed, and observed without reservations. All games must be stopped, in my view, in the most determined way.

[Grachev] Absolutely. All this is connected with nuclear weapons. Of course, things are too serious to start political games, you will agree. But I nevertheless think that sanctions are not the only measure that can be taken by the Security Council. I think the proposal made recently by Moscow on convening an international conference on nuclear-free status for the Korean peninsula must not be forgotten.

[Pasko] Of course, this proposal cannot be ignored. But it must not be mixed up with the question of compliance with the treaty on implementation of the IAEA's requirements. North Korea says it is against the idea of its argument with the IAEA being resolved collectively. It demands talks solely with the United States [two- second break in transmission].

[Grachev] Many believe that they [as heard] will be continued. We have received a report from Japan today from which it is clear that the temperature of the water is being sounded. How will Americans react to such proposals? The Americans have thus said nothing. But I would like to note that proposals by Moscow seem to have been adopted by Pyongyang in recent days. Nevertheless I would like to draw your attention to the following: The issue of the argument with the IAEA seems to be akin to that of a conference on nuclear-free status for the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless they are not the same.

[Pasko] Indeed, they are not the same. I would like to remind our listeners that this was an opinion of our observer Vladimir Pasko.

Sanctions Against DPRK To 'Fuel Tensions'

PM1506091194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Golts report: "On the Brink of Sanctions Which Can Solve Little"]

[Text] The nuclear poker game begun by the DPRK leadership is nearing a climax. The stakes are close to as high as they can get: In response to attempts by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to clarify just how much weapons-grade plutonium the DPRK has at its disposal, Pyongyang has stated that it is leaving this international organization. Foreign agencies also report the possibility of a "definitive" DPRK withdrawal from the nonproliferation treaty. Pyongyang has declared its intention "to implement its own nuclear program autonomously."

In these conditions, the question of international sanctions against North Korea, the need for which is defended by the United States, Japan, and South Korea, shifts to a practical level. Washington is already carrying out direct work on a draft resolution for the gradual introduction of these sanctions. In a telephone conversation, the presidents of Russia and the United States exchanged views on the resolution, in which both the idea of sanctions and the holding of a conference for a comprehensive solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula are expected to be reflected on an equal footing.

Meanwhile, through its own news agency, KCNA, Pyongyang declares: "Sanctions against our republic signify immediate war, and war is marciless." Four years ago, I was in this country. The North Korean military explained how they were preparing to repulse a threat from the South. They showed me underground bases where 1960's Soviet fighters were located. A fortified region set up near the demarcation line was a source of particular pride for them. It constituted a huge granite mountain, in which, by dint of incredible labors, galleries and caverns had been forged. It was in these that artillery and machine gun pockets were located.

Even at that time, it occurred to me that the horrors of the last war, the merciless bombings by American aviation, had not been forgotten in the DPRK. And they are preparing for another. Although this probably bears only a tangential relation to resisting a modern army. But now, whether you like it or not, all these preparations have to be taken seriously. At the very least in South Korea, where right now they are stressing that Pyongyang has accumulated the requisite reserves in its underground stockpiles and it has sufficiently combat ready Armed Forces.

All of which indicates that an extremely alarming situation is indeed taking shape on the Korean peninsula. The world community cannot allow any country to ignore the nuclear nonproliferation regime. However, the introduction of sanctions in this instance is no more effective than transforming the said granite mountain into an "unassailable fortress" which you can easily go right past.

As shown by recent practice of applying sanctions, be they against Yugoslavia or Libya, they produce any results except those desired. And I see no grounds to believe that they will be effective in respect of the DPRK. This country's foreign economic relations are negligible, and a deterioration in the population's living standards is by no means a factor which may cause problems for the North Korean leaders, especially in an atmosphere of heightened military hysteria. In principle, they will boil down to calling a halt to the transfer of currency into the DPRK from the Korean community in Japan, and to restrictions on the already less than extensive economic relations with Russia, should it

support the sanctions. That China—the DPRK's chief economic partner—will join the sanctions is fairly unlikely.

But I suspect that the very ineffectiveness of sanctions, the fact that they bear an almost symbolic significance, suits those who started this risky game. I do not think that it is Pyongyang's real aim to create its own nuclear weaponry. There is something else which is more likely: This program is the North Korean leaders' bargaining chip with the world community, as a result of which they want guarantees that Western states, and above all the United States, acknowledge the DPRK for what it is, with all the "specific" peculiarities of this regime. So that it can exist in the future without experiencing pressure on the subject of, say, observing human rights. In this sense, sanctions which isolate the DPRK meet this same objective to a certain extent. The idea of the country as a besieged fortress gives the rulers far greater opportunities even than international recognition of the regime.

The United States' desire to introduce sanctions is also understandable. Washington has yet to have much success in strengthening its position in the role of chief guarantor of law and order in Asia (this was especially clear after the retreat in the dispute about most favored nation status in trade with China). The introduction of sanctions, especially accompanied by some kind of military preparations in response to Pyongyang's threats, provides an opportunity to show just who is defending the Asian states.

Things with Russia are more complex. It, of course, has no interest whatever in a violation of the nonproliferation regime or the appearance of new nuclear states, especially not right alongside it. On the other hand, it has equally little interest in whipping up military tension on its own borders. The introduction of sanctions will inevitably lead to this. (Incidentally, of the potential participants in the sanctions, Russia alone has an embassy in Pyongyang.) This is why Moscow is firmly promoting the idea of an international conference during which it would be possible to eradicate suspicion over the DPRK's nuclear program and to allow the latter to "save face" at the same time.

Admittedly, as the visit by the South Korean president shows, the main thing which our partners have latched onto from the Russian stance is the possibility of its acceding to the sanctions, and its reluctance to support the DPRK in the event of a deterioration in the situation. Until recently the idea of a conference has hung somewhere in the background. As a result, the world is on the brink of sanctions which can lead to nothing except fueling tension.

The nuclear poker game is nearing a climax. It is not impossible that, when the time comes to show the cards, somebody will simply lose their nerve. The trouble is that it is by no means a candelabrum which will be aimed at the head of the opponent....

U.S. Official Cited on DPRK Conference

PM1506092394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by Sergey Ivanov under the general heading: "DPRK Leaves International Atomic Energy Agency Under Wise Leadership of Kim Il-song. In Preparation for World War III"]

[Text] New York—Pentagon Chief William Perry made a gloomy forecast in the middle of April this year as he was touring South Korea: The DPRK "will be able in a few weeks to develop at least four atomic bombs" with all the attendant consequences.

A month later CIA analysts concluded that as of early June Pyongyang would have between one and two atomic bombs.

In a recent brief interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant U.S. secretary of state for Asian affairs, said that North Korea "has stockpiled enough plutonium to develop at least one nuclear device, and this process is proceeding fairly rapidly."

Washington's concern at the state of affairs on the Korean peninsula is still growing. The nuclear reactor in the Korean village of Yongbyon, which was to act as a plant for the development of "a deterrent weapon," was unloaded very rapidly. It had been thought that it would take the DPRK several months to remove 8,000 radioactive fuel rods from the reactor given that it had just one transporter.

Today the situation is extremely delicate. On the one hand, Pyongyang is clearly resisting U.S. pressure. On the other, a permanent member of the UN Security Council—China—may not respond appropriately to pressure from Washington.

"Mr. Hubbard, under these conditions does it look as though Russia's idea of holding an international conference on Korea is the only way of settling the problem?" I asked the U.S. State Department representative.

"Needless to say, this suggestion cannot be entirely ruled out today. But, believe you me, there is no time to be lost."

Kozyrev Receives Bosnian Serb Leader Karadzic

LD1406145794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—"Nobody knows how the recent crisis over Sarajevo would end if it were not for the initiative of President Boris Yeltsin", Radovan Karadzic said on Tuesday regarding Russia's support for Bosnian Serbs. At a meeting with Andrey Kozyrev in the

Russian Foreign Ministry he said the Russian people had been Serbs friends over centuries.

Radovan Karadzic arrived in Moscow to receive a literary prize named after Mikhail Sholokhov that was awarded to him by the Russian Writers Union. Karadzic said he intends to meet representatives of various political trends. He said he will never forget priority role of the Russian Government and Russian diplomacy in the quest for peaceful solution to the Bosnian conflict. He said Bosnian Serbs are aware of Russia's objectivity so they believe it will not be biased in the approach to the events in the region.

"It is very difficult to end the civil war. Not only the armies but also civilians are involved in hostilities", Karadzic said. "We are sick and tired of the crisis lasting for several years. We need peace in order to build a democratic society and free economy".

Karadzic Willing To Accept 49 Percent

LD1406215794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Sergey Dorenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Russian Foreign] Minister Kozyrev said today that to unilaterally lift the embargo on arms deliveries to Bosnia could lead to a world war. Previously, only Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had made such a gloomy forecast about the Yugoslav crisis.

Kozyrev's sharp statement was prompted by the fact that only President Clinton's possible veto separates the United States from lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to the Bosnian Muslims. The [U.S.] Congress and Senate have already voted to lift the embargo. If Minister Kozyrev obviously fears that the U.S. gesture may provoke a reciprocal decision from Russian legislators, his guest today—Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic—evidently expects just such a response from Russia.

[Begin recording] [Karadzic] There is no embargo [for the Muslims], they receive weapons every day, very good new weapons, and sometimes I think it might be better for the Serbs if America lifted the embargo on weapons because other countries might lift the embargo against the Serbs.

[Dorenko] Can you name specific channels?

[Karadzic] They have been receiving them by parachute drops; they have been receiving them from Croatian territory, and some UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] elements are also working with the Muslims. I cannot say that there are high-level orders, but the field commands make unlawful deals with the Muslims and they get some very good weapons and if they did not have them, the war would be over in several months. [end recording]

[Dorenko] I met with Radovan Karadzic in the Yugoslav ambassador's residence after he returned from a meeting with Kozyrev. Russia is insisting on a new meeting of the foreign ministers of countries interested in the Yugoslav events in order to advance a new plan for dividing up Bosnia. This plan is supported reluctantly today, even by the Bosnian Serbs, among others.

[Begin Karadzic recording] We have 64 percent of our territory, we now control 73 percent, and it would be very painful for us to agree to 49 percent. [sentence as heard] But if we get good quality territory, perhaps, we could discuss this. We shall see how things go in Geneva. [end recording]

[Dorenko] Karadzic is afraid that the least valuable territories will be palmed off on him. At tomorrow's meeting in London with his Western counterparts, Vitaliy Churkin, among others, will decide what lands should be given and to whom.

Vitaliy Churkin is once again playing the role of diplomatic ambulance. He did not find time, however, to receive Radovan Karadzic after their latest quarrel, when Churkin accused the Bosnian Serb leaders of treachery.

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Are you still on bad terms with Churkin?

[Karadzic] No, I do not think we are on bad terms. The thing is that when dealing with the Gorazde crisis we failed to agree on one point, but we achieved great successes since we managed to solve the crisis around Sarajevo. And for this we are grateful to Churkin, who brought a letter from President Yeltsin. This was a real solution to the crisis. I think we will work very successfully with Mr. Churkin in the future, too. We are not enemies. We are friends; we understand him. Working together, one can quarrel only with a friend, not with an enemy. [end recording]

[Dorenko] Karadzic hoped to meet the president, but he is in Blagoveshchensk. He still counts on a meeting with [Prime Minister] Chernomyrdin, but it is uncertain if Chernomyrdin can deal with Serb affairs after his recent kidney stone operation, especially considering the fact that this time Karadzic came as a private individual at the invitation of Yuriy Bondarev [chairman of the Russian Writers' Union]. As always he speaks a lot about his affection for the Russian Government, but can be seen most often in the company of the Russian opposition.

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Are you not afraid that your contacts with the opposition here may compromise you in the eyes of the Kremlin?

[Karadzic] Each Russian is very important to us. First of all, we are working with the government and we are very grateful to the government, but I believe that this is one and the same thing, it is Russia, Russian people. [end recording]

[Dorenko] One of the reasons Karadzic came to Moscow was to receive a literary prize for his poetry from the Writers' Union, and not from the Writers' Union which

is for democrats but from the one which is its opposite. In addition to Karadzic, prizes will be given to the chairman of the prize commission, his deputy, and a member of the board.

Meanwhile, it is not only the future of Karadzic but, to even greater degree, of the Moscow authorities that is being decided in Washington today. If the U.S. Administration, despite the UN and Moscow, permits the airdrop of weapons to the Muslims, we shall be able to see how big an American pill Moscow can swallow without taking active anti-American actions. Only a little time ago it seemed that the most difficult thing in the Yugoslav question was pacifying Karadzic and the Bosnian Serbs and now here is the outcome: They are pacified, and the main danger for Moscow's position comes from Washington.

All the best to you.

Karadzic 'Very Satisfied' With Talks

LD1406132894 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1224 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jun (TANJUG)—After his exceptionally long talks at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Radovan Karadzic told Yugoslav reporters that "the Serb side presented its standpoints. I am very satisfied with the way we were received."

The talks were "useful and held in a good atmosphere," Karadzic pointed out. In his opinion, Russian diplomacy has assumed "an objective and impartial position," presenting the Serb interests in the Contact Group in the same way.

According to Karadzic, the territorial division of Bosnia-Herzegovina, based on the 51 to 49 percent ratio, is problematic for the Serb side, but could be discussed if the quality and quantity of the territory were taken into account. In this case, Karadzic said, the Serb side would demand a certain degree of quality, compact territory, and a possible exchange of territory by giving "quantity for quality".

In Karadzic's view, the international community is dominated by forces that favor peace. In his opinion, some circles in the United States have so far opposed peace and are making proposals that the Serbs obviously cannot accept. "We are hoping that the Contact Group will act differently this time, that it will not come up with a proposal that is totally unacceptable to the Serbs. We would have to reject such a proposal," Karadzic said. He stressed a need for good relations with the Russian side so it can convey to the Contact Group what the Serbs can or cannot accept.

Asked whether Russia could support some Serbian stands regarding the maps, Karadzic said: "Today there was a considerable degree of understanding for some sensitive spots on the map," referring primarily to Brcko, Posavina [north Bosnia], and west and east Bosnia—or the Drina region.

We believe it is very important that the fact be taken into account that both states—the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb Republic—must be able to survive in a political and communications sense as well as in every other sense, the president of the Serb Republic said in conclusion.

Radovan Karadzic is expected to have more talks and meetings in Moscow. Tomorrow, he will receive the "Mikhail Sholokhov Award" from Russia's Writers Union at a special ceremony.

Further on Talks With Kozyrev

LD1406123894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—"If there were no initiative from President Boris Yeltsin, nobody knows how the war over Sarajevo would have ended," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said in Moscow today, speaking of support extended by Russia to Bosnian Serbs. During his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the Bosnian Serb leader called the Russian people "friends of the Serbs for centuries."

Karadzic, who arrived in Moscow for receiving Mikhail Sholokhov Literary Award conferred on him by the Writers' Union of Russia, said that he plans to meet with representatives of different political movements. At the same time the Serb politician emphasised that he does not intend to forget the important role played by the Russian Government and Russian diplomacy in the search for a peaceful solution to the Bosnian conflict. According to Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbs are aware of Russia's objective stand, and do not expect any one-sided or unbalanced approach to events in the region.

"It is very difficult to end the civil war, because not only armies, but civilians are also involved in combat actions," Karadzic said. "We are getting tired of the crisis which continues for several years. We need peace, so as to construct a democratic society and a free economy," he said.

Kozyrev on Readiness for Partnership for Peace, NATO

LD1406122894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1037 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jun—Russia is prepared in the near future to sign a framework document of the Partnership for Peace initiative together with a program of full-scale cooperation with NATO. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this here today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the conclusion of talks with Mikhail Popov, his Moldovan counterpart. From Moscow's

point of view, the Russian minister added, as far as deciding this particular question was concerned, it might be a matter of days, or even hours, rather than weeks.

Now, said Kozyrev, everything depends on how fast we receive a reply signal from Brussels to activate both the framework document and the Russia-NATO program, whose main principles were presented to the NATO leadership by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. According to Kozyrev, the program of cooperation with NATO is a very full of documents, which reflects Russia's importance in international affairs and the specific nature of its relations with the NATO, "without any mutual vetoes or surprises."

The Moldovan minister told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that his country, which signed the framework document in March of this year, also plans to submit to NATO in the near future a program of individual cooperation. Talking about the advantages Moldova will gain from participating in the Partnership for Peace programme, Popov noted in particular that if the republic finds itself under threat from outside, it will be able to hold consultations with NATO the in the interest of strengthening stability and national security.

Kozyrev, Moldova's Popov Discuss Army Withdrawal

LD1406144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow realizes the basic necessity to withdraw Russia's 14th Army from Moldova. There is no need to procrastinate this process, said Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Tuesday, upon conclusion of talks with his Moldovan counterpart, Mikhail Popov.

In answer to a question from Interfax Kozyrev said: "Russia clearly understands that there must be no foreign troops in a sovereign state. However it's not easy to prepare an organized withdrawal of the 14th Army. This process will take time."

According to him, "it's useless to speak about serious differences in the two sides' approaches to the times of withdrawal." "Both Russia and Moldova realize perfectly well the complexity of this issue, to which neither side has a clear answer. It's gratifying that no one has tried to tackle this problem unilaterally," Kozyrev noted.

For his part, Popov said that the presence of the 14th Army in Trans-Dniestria [Transdniester] is "the most inconvenient part of the Soviet legacy in relations between Russia and Moldova." "We do not blame Russia for the resulting situation," he stressed.

The head of Moldovan diplomacy said he hopes that the concrete times of withdrawal will be agreed upon during the next round of bilateral talks planned for July.

General Views Abkhaz Peacekeeping Operation

LD1406121994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Gondusov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—The president of Russia on Tuesday took a decision on the start of a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia, Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy minister of defence, has announced at a press conference. Kondratyev has been entrusted with an overall supervision of an operation to bring a peacekeeping force to the region of Georgian- Abkhazian conflict.

A peacekeeping force is to be brought to the region under an an agreement, signed in Moscow on may 14, this year, by the conflicting sides with the mediation of Russia. Georgia's and Abkhazia's final consent to the introduction of a peacekeeping force was obtained as a result of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's recent trip to the Transcaucasus.

Kondratyev explained that in line with President Yeltsin's decree on Russia's participation in a peacekeeping operation in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, the mission will be started by Russian units stationed in the Transcaucasus, the 345th Paratroop Regiment, deployed at Gudauta, in particular. The regiment had participated in peacekeeping activities earlier. The start of a peacekeeping operation at such a strength does not require consent from the Federation Council.

The Russian Defence Ministry's operations group, led by General Kondratyev, is due to leave Moscow for the conflict area on Tuesday with a view to reconnoitering at the places of the introduction of a peace-making force and command post locations.

The peacemaking operation will be carried out in three stages. Combat engineer units are to be brought in during the first stage from June 15 to 21 for mine-clearing operations. Communications and control facilities are to be airlifted to set up the peacekeeping force's main headquarters in Sukhumi.

Headquarters are also to be set up in the western zone at Gali and in the eastern one in Zugdidi. At the same time one battalion from the regiment and two from the Russian group of forces in the Transcaucasus will be getting ready to enter the conflict zone on a peacemaking mission. They are to enter the disengagement area from June 16 to 19 and take up combat positions at the disengagement line on both banks of Inguri river.

The second stage will begin after the presidential decree to this effect is considered at a Federation Council meeting which is scheduled for June 21. Those present are expected to be addressed by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev as President Yeltsin's special representative in charge of the consideration of the matter.

In the event of a positive decision by the parliament, the Russian peace-making force in the region will be reinforced by two battalions from among the peacekeeping divisions from Leningrad and Volga military districts. The peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia is to be arranged in full by June 26. It will be carried out in close coordination and cooperation with the U.N. mission in Georgia.

On the whole, the peacekeeping operation is to involve about 2,500 Russian peacekeepers on a purely voluntary basis and with contracts signed.

Kondratyev pointed out that the Defence Ministry's peacekeeping operation must be financed as a separate item outside the military budget. Last year the Defence Ministry spent 26,000 million roubles for peacekeeping actions.

The deployment of a peacekeeping force in Abkhazia, according to preliminary estimates, will cost Russia 2,000 million roubles.

Kondratyev did not rule it out that officers from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan may join the peacekeeping operation at the second stage as observers.

Kondratyev Interview

LD1406220994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] A group of generals and officers of the Russian Defense Ministry headed by Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev departed for Abkhazia on 14 June. The group is to oversee the beginning of the peacekeeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone. Slavyanka's correspondent Vladimir Orlov is among the delegation. He managed to have an interview with Georgiy Kondratyev just before take-off.

According to the deputy defense minister, the beginning of the peacekeeping operation is divided into two stages. The first stage will take place on 16-19 June. During this stage the engineer subunits will be deployed to carry out mine clearance operations in the region of the conflict. Communications equipment will also be installed and headquarters set up for the peacekeeping forces. There will be two such headquarters—in Gali and Zugdidi.

During the first stage three battalions of the Russian Transcaucasian troops and the 345th Airborne Assault Regiment stationed in Gudauta are to be deployed. The peacekeeping forces' subunits will occupy disengagement lines along the Inguri riverbank.

The second stage will take place during 21-24 June. During this stage the number of peacekeeping troops in the conflict zone will be increased by two more battalions. The full-scale peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia will begin on 26 June.

Colonel General Kondratyev noted that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry will have to bear all the costs of the peacekeeping operation, which will be about 2 billion rubles. He also noted that in 1993 the Russian Defense Ministry spent more than 26 billion rubles out of its own budget on peacekeeping operations.

To the question on the composition of the peacekeeping forces, Georgiy Kondratyev replied that only the Russian subunits will be involved. The CIS countries will be represented only by observers from Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. To our correspondent's question on who will be appointed commander of the CIS peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia, Kondratyev replied that this decision will be made on site.

Troops Begin Mine-Clearing Operations

LD1506084994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian troops' peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict has begun. As INTERFAX reports, this morning sappers of the Russian 345th Airborne Regiment started clearning mines from territory in Abkhazia's Galskiy [Gali] Rayon.

Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister who arrived in Sukhumi on Wednesday, said the direct introduction of Russian forces on the lines of contact of the combatant sides along the Inguri River will be effected in the perdiod from 16 to 21 June after the mines have been cleared from the territory.

He said the batallion of the 345th Airborne Regiment, which regiment is stationed at Gudauta, would act as disengagement forces at the initial stage. In this same period, Kondratyev noted, the combatant sides should start palling back their armed formations 12 km from the river.

Military Instruction Course Taught With Georgia

LD1406170794 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1327 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] A joint course of instruction [uchebno-metodicheskiye sbory] involving division commanders from the Group of Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus and brigades of the Georgian Armed Forces begins in the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria on 16 June.

The course program includes a regimental tactical exercise [polkovoye takticheskoye ucheniye] with a display of elements of the modern integrated all-arms battle and the sharing of experience in military training and army personnel education.

The exercise will be attended by Russian army observers and senior military ranks from the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

Black Sea Fleet Guard Shot, Wounded in Simferopol

LD1406150294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—A Black Sea Fleet navyman, guarding a warehouse near the Crimean administarative centre of Simferopol, was wounded in the chest by a small-calibre bullet on Tuesday morning, the press centre of the Russian Navy told TASS today.

The wound poses no lethal danger, the source said adding that the case is now being investigated.

Yeltsin To Sign Partnership Agreement With EU

LD1406175894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Minayev]

[Text] Luxembourg June 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will sign an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union on the Greek island of Corfu on June 24, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Theodhoros Pangalos [title as received] said on Tuesday.

According to the diplomat, who chaired the two-day sitting of the EU Council of Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg, after that, leaders of Austria, Norway, Finland and Sweden will sign a treaty on their counries' joining the European Union. A day before the ceremonies, Yeltsin and heads of member-countries of the EU will discuss pressing international problems at a working dinner.

According to Pangalos, the text of the Russian-EU agreement has been discussed by the ministers. During the next few days the amendments concerning the activities of five foreign banks on the Russian territory will be introduced in the agreement by the EU's Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Foreign Ministry Official on EC Entry

LD1406210994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2036 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—A Russian Foreign Ministry's official said Russia is likely to join the European Council in a few months.

"We presume that Russia might become a member of the European Council within the next six months, and not later than next spring", Galina Sidorova, a spokeswoman for Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, told reporters on Tuesday.

According to Sidorova, earlier, Russia's entering the EC was conditioned on the adoption of a new constitution.

Now Russia has its new constitution adopted. And this "enables her to bid for an equal place among the members of the European Council", she said.

Joint Russian-German Naval Exercises End in Baltic

LD1406201694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1830 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Russian-German naval exercises ended today in the Baltic. According to a report from the Russian Navy's press center, the maneuvers were held 13-14 June west off the Danish island of Bornholm. The Russian side was represented by the patrol escort Neustrashimyy, and the German side by missile patrol boats [words indistinct]. Questions of communications and tasks of joint antiaircraft defense and maneuvering, as well as conducting rescue operations at sea were exercised.

Shakhray Calls For New CIS Confederation

LD1406145194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow today, the first roundtable was held under the aegis of the Russian Unity and Accord party. Participating were representatives of the administrations of the CIS countries, politicians, and diplomats. The prospects for Eurasian integration were the subject of discussion.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray stressed that the time had come to think about making the CIS into a confederation of an EEC type. That would not mean the reinstatement of the former USSR. In the EAU—short for Euro-Asian union—every state will be sovereign and independent. However, there is an obstacle in the way, Shakhray said; this is the continuing rise of nationalism in the countries of the CIS, including Great Russian nationalism. He said the key to solving the problem is the establishment of genuine federalism and local self-administration.

Marat Shizhirin, deputy head of the Kazakh president's administration, spoke about the mechanisms for the formation of the EAU today. In order to enter the EAU, it will be necessary to hold a referendum or to adopt a decision at the level of a country's parliament. At the same time, the alliance will not allow associate membership. The observation of interstate agreements will be an absolute part of the EAU code. The territorial integrity of the member states of the alliance will be rigidly observed. The main condition for membership in the EAU is the halting of combat actions. All this will create

a new impetus for rapprochement of the former USSR's republics, both from a political and economic point of view, the speakers said.

Praises Eurasian Union

LD1406202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] During the Perspectives for Euro-Asian Integration round-table discussion in Moscow today Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray highly appraised the initiative on establishment of the Euro-Asian Union put forward by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Shakhray said that the matter was not whether to unite or not but how to unite.

Shakhray stressed that integration must be carried out in a civilized way, equitably and voluntarily, preserving the political sovereignty of the countries involved. Otherwise, he said, the result could be the use of force.

Shakhray said that the issue of uniting and restoring economic and other ties was now a factor of political stability in all CIS states, including Russia.

"The forms and the title of the new integration can vary," Shakhray said. He added that the CIS will be becoming more and more efficient and friendship with Russia will be the victor at the presidential elections in Belarus and Ukraine.

Duma Official, UK Official Discuss DPRK

LD1506055994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—"It's for the first time that the world encounters such outrageous nuclear blackmail as in North Korea's case," said chairman of the Duma Committee for Defence, Sergey Yushenkov, when he met his British counterpart, Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Defence Nicholas Bonser, "Ekho Moskvy" radio reported on Tuesday night.

Commenting on North Korea's problem, Bonser pointed out that the most important thing in this crisis was to show firm determination so that other countries would not be tempted to follow North Korea's example. Otherwise, a potential threat of a nuclear conflict might appear for the first time after the Second World War, the British lawmaker said.

Yushenkov pointed out that the "Partnership for Peace" programme can play an important role in the prevention of conflicts similar to the Yugoslav and Korean crises.

Rybkin Meets UK Parliamentarian

LD1406222594

[Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1755 GMT on 14 June reports that Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian State Duma told the visiting British member of parliament Sir Nicholas Bonsor, chairman of the Commons defense committee, that currently the topmost task was to adopt the federal budget for the current year, ITAR-TASS said, quoting Rybkin as having said that "the principle of sensible sufficiency" ought to underpin defense spending in Russia.

Cooperation between both parliaments, world ecology, the stockpiling of nuclear arms, and the proliferation of nuclear technologies were discussed, ITAR-TASS said. Rybkin says that NATO's Partnership for Peace program was "a bit restricting for Russia."

Collective security in Russia was also discussed, with the Duma's Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov in the chair. Despite the end of the cold war, it was impossible to prevent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, he said. Partnership for peace and Russia's participation in peacemaking missions were also discussed.

British members of parliament were told that Russia was concerned about its servicemen having to protect the CIS borders in what was a legally unclear area. "While analyzing the political and military aspects of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the British members of parliament expressed the hope that democracy in Russia 'works long-term,'" ITAR-TASS said.

Stepashin on UK Spy, Counterintelligence

LD1506081594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Evgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk June 15 TASS—Five foreign spies were exposed and arrested in Russia in 1994, including an agent recruited by the British Secret Service, according to Director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service Sergey Stepashin who visited the Sakhalin region in the Far East.

"Only this year there were five detentions of rather important recruited people, including by the British Secret Service", he told TASS on Wednesday adding that this proves that his service, which emerged after the collapse of the notorious KGB, is gradually reviving in its counterintelligence activities.

As far as the fight against organised crime is concerned, Stepashin urged "extreme measures" and said that certain human rights violations are inevitable as mafia is becoming very strong. However, he stressed that "there will be no serious violations although certain mishaps are possible".

He added that law enforcement agencies will work to defend the rights of the absolute majority of people and not of those "who believe that the law is not for them".

Stepashin said that a real gangland war had begun in Russia. This is a war "of mafia clans, a war without rules when criminals use the latest means of human destruction". In such a situation extreme measures are necessary as "other ways of struggle do not exist".

The Counter-Intelligence Service is going to sign a share-power and cooperation agreement with the Interior Ministry in the near future. Stepashin said four joint orders are being drafted which will share the powers and tasks of both agencies and promote their cooperation.

The KGB and interior Ministry were always at odds in Soviet years arguing about who is the most important. Stepashin believes this should no longer happen. "It is time to end the contrapposition between the two agencies which is rooted in the past".

He added that the "serious results" of the joint work of his agency, the Interior Ministry and the prosecutor's office will be known in four-six weeks.

Counterintelligence Service To Cooperate With Japan

LD1506080494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0641 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Evgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk June 15 TASS—The chief Russian counter-spy said his service is ready to cooperate with Japanese colleagues in fighting international crime and solving issues of mutual interest. "Regional bodies of the Federal Counterintelligence Service have been o'kayed to establish direct contacts with their colleagues from the land of the rising sun", Sergey Stepashin told TASS on Wednesday after visiting the Kurile islands in the Far East.

Stepashin said it is necessary to join efforts of secret services of various countries to fight international crime. His service has concluded corresponding agreements with 38 partners in other states. Eight new agreements are being prepared, including with China, South Korea and Egypt, according to Stepashin.

IAEA Experts Inspect Kola Nuclear Power Station

LD1506090394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk June 15 TASS—The nuclear power station on the Kola peninsula can operate until its design service life expires, says a conclusion made by an IAEA commission which has just ended its inspection of the station.

The commission checked whether recommendations given to the personnel of the station by IAEA experts two years ago had been followed. It was recommended then to enhance the reliability of the safety systems of the first and second nuclear reactors and replace outdated equipment by a modern one. The IAEA inspection pointed out that half of these recommendations had been already fulfilled.

Russia, Vietnam Increase Economic Cooperation

LD1506104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Afonin]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—"Russia and Vietnam step up trade and economic cooperation, and we are sure that the visit to Moscow by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet will promote the further deepening of business ties between the two countries and enhance their effectiveness," Lev Antoshchenkov, deputy chief of the main agency for trade and economic cooperation with Asian countries and the Asia-Pacific region at the Russian Ministry of External Economic Relations, told ITAR-TASS.

The value of trade between Russia and Vietnam made up more than 300 million dollars last year, Antoshchenkov said. Both sides no longer establish rigid quotas on trade. Instead they coordinate the lists of goods in which they are interested. Russian consumers receive from Vietnam rice, meat, tea, coffee, vegetables and friut, spices, rugs and carpets, footwear, sewn articles, knitgoods and other goods. Incidentally, the exhibition of goods that opened at the Vietnamese trade mission in Moscow on June 14 shows Vietnam's export potentials. Vietnam is interested in purchasing from Russia road-building equipment, metals, fertiliser, timber and sawn timber.

Russia deliveries of sets of equipment for the construction of various facilities are of much importance to Vietnam, Antoshchenkov said. The construction of the Hoabinh hydropower station will be completed this year. The biggest hydropower station in South East Asia with a capacity of two million kilowatts will go into operation in September. A hydropower station will be build in Yali in the Danang District. This will make it possible to supply enough electricity to central Vietnam. The construction of the Laokai complex with an enrichment factory to produce 1.5 million tonnes of apatite concentrate a year will be completed this year.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with a successful functioning of the joint venture Vietsovpetro which extracted over 20 million tonnes of crude oil from the shelf of Vietnam in the period of the venture's existence. The volume of extraction will surpass six million tonnes this year.

Vietnam will continue goods deliveries towards repaying its debt to Russia, Antoshchenkov said.

During the visit of the Vietnamese Premier accompanied by a large group of officials from various ministries and agencies, representatives of the Vietnamese business circles will hold substantive talks for the speeding up of the implementation of the earlier achieved arrangements and will discuss projects for cooperation. A number of documents, including agreements on cooperation in the area of agro-industrial complexes and fisheries will be signed.

Shumeyko on Relations With Bulgaria

LD1406151194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Abrosimov and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Sofia June 14 TASS—"Our visit to Bulgaria was not of so much parliamentary, as of state nature, more so, it was agreed to by the Russian president, government, and, in essence, precedes Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's scheduled for this fall visit to Sofia, when important documents for cooperation between the two countries are planned to be signed," Russian Federation Council (upper house of parliament) chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, who headed a Russian parliamentary delegation to Bulgaria, said at a press conference here today.

Shumeyko paid great attention to the question of further interaction in different spheres between Russia and Bulgaria. He expressed the view that "the development of relations between the two countries should not be allowed to take their own course." The Russian politician explained this thought, while answering an ITAR-TASS question regarding the assessment of the fulfillment of the interstate treaty on friendly relations and cooperation signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Sofia in August 1992.

"The treaty is being implemented in an unsatisfactory manner. Suffice it say that at that time an accord was reached to resolve the problem of mutual debts within a short period, but the problem has not yet been resolved," Shumeyko said.

In this context Shumeyko recalled the important role played by parliaments of both countries, which should assist "lawfully ensure" mutual cooperation, thereby removing different kinds of barriers which exist on the path to movement of capital, in the sphere of trade and setting up large industrial and finance groups.

On the whole, Shumeyko values Bulgaria as an important strategic partner of Russia on the Balkans, with which Russia intends to interact within the Black Sea economic cooperation framework.

As far as the Yugoslavian crisis is concerned, according to Shumeyko, Russia principly adheres to the stand of "achieving a compromise, reconciliation of the parties, and not punishing only one of them," the Federation Council chairman said.

According to Shumeyko, the dialogue held with the Bulgarian leadership has showed that the two sides, in principle, do not have any differences over the question of participating in integration processes taking place in Europe. This, in particular, applies to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" programme, and joining other European structures, including Council of Europe. Certain differences of opinion, which cropped up during the talks, bear rather tactical than strategical nature, he said.

Answering several questions regarding the implementation of democratic reforms in Russia and the society's present state asked by Bulgarian journalists, Shumeyko said that he does not consider it feasible to hold pre-term presidential elections, since he does not see "any potential basis" for this, as well as he does for any dramatic social shakeups in the country. The Federation Council chairman also touched on the recent pessimistic statements made by nobel laureate Aleksndr Solzhenitsyn about the prospects of the formation of a democratic society in Russia. Every man of letters is free to voice his opinion, but I do not share the great writer's pessimism, vladimir Shumeyko said.

Problems Attending Pullout from Estonia Eyed

PM1406121994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov under "Military-Political Review" rubric: "The Last of the 90,000.... Heavy Burden Falls to Lot of Russian Servicemen Still in Estonia"]

[Text] In 1990 there were 90,000 Soviet Army servicemen on Estonian territory. Now all that is left of the once mighty military grouping which Russia has taken under its jurisdiction is something in the order of 2,500 men and, as the Estonian press notes ironically, nowadays there is one Russian officer for every three soldiers. Surely not a single army in the world has such a ratio. Nonetheless the Russian military units, which are concentrated in only a few garrisons, are still being clamorously called "occupying" units, and Estonia regards their presence as a direct threat to the country's sovereignty. Special concern is apparently being caused by the two nuclear reactors at the naval base in Paldiski and the 144th Motorized Rifle Division, which has weapons and armored personnel carriers as well as around 30 tanks. In the republic capital itself an ammunition dump which originally contained 7,000 items in storage is under the constant attention of the Estonian military. True, now there are considerably fewer of them, since ammunition is being continuously taken off to Russia.

The Baltic Fleet has already withdrawn its ships, but something like around 12 half-sunken old "tubs" have been left at piers in Tallinn and Paldiski.

Citing these figures to Moscow journalists, the Estonian military observed that, besides the "purely military aspect," they are concerned by the fact that the Russian garrisons pose a danger "as a hotbed of crime and of weapons and metal smuggling." Something similar has already been voiced in a RIA report cited by Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, so when given the opportunity to talk to the Estonian premier personally in Tallin, I asked him to clarify the facts cited.

"The Estonian police did indeed recently arrest a group of Russian servicemen trading in weapons and metals," Laar replied. "Incidentally, the Russian Prosecutor's Office is also working on these cases. But we are especially concerned by the trade in radioactive metals. According to our information the Baltic Fleet recently sold and exported from Estonia several ships containing a considerable dose of radioactive contamination."

I think the thesis regarding the "criminalization" of the remnants of Russian troops in Estonia is no accident, especially as certain incidents "have occurred." But by the way, it is relevant to recall that our servicemen are permitted to sell some metals and surplus property locally. All the funds earned, Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, stressed in a conversation with me, are going on the construction of housing for military pensioners in Russia. But in my view the issue here is that, by raising a delicate subject, officials in Tallinn are thereby trying to exert pressure on Moscow and to mold public opinion in a certain way. The aim is well known—to get Russia to withdraw its troops before 31 August 1994. But the point is that, following Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Tallinn, when the signing of the appropriate troop withdrawal treaty started to look more certain, Estonia itself has been holding up the troop withdrawal willy-nilly.

"The Russian side is making active preparations for the transportation of nuclear reactors, fuel, and radioactive waste from Paldiski," Anatoliy Chizhikov, military attache at the Russian Embassy in Estonia, related. "Containers are being delivered and the necessary equipment and specialists are arriving: Unique work lies ahead! But instead of helping us in this the Estonian side is delaying the matter in every way possible."

It turned out that originally in order for the specialists to enter Estonia promptly they needed merely to put in a claim at the Estonian Foreign Ministry, which would the be transmitted to the border.... But visas were soon introduced, but for some time the Estonian border services did not even "know about it."

"Estonia is trying to hasten the Baltic Fleet's final departure," Vice Admiral Anatoliy Gavrilov, commander of the Tallin Naval Base, said. "We reached agreement with a Norwegian firm to help us raise four cutters that sank in Paldiski and it would acquire them as scrap. Three cutters were raised, but then Estonian representatives intervened. They protested the deal and, as a result, we had to...scuttle the cutters that had already been raised."

Vice Adm. Gavrilov categorically denied the Estonian side's suggestions that the Baltic Fleet is selling "contaminated" ships. According to him, before any trade deals go ahead the ships are "cleaned" of radioactive waste, if there is any. This process is strictly monitored.

It seems as though problems will even arise at the final stage of the troop withdrawal. Anatoliy Ivanov, minister-counselor at the Russian Embassy in Tallin, explained that we will have to hand over our military camps and their property under formal instruments [akty], and there is no doubt that the meticulous Estonians will count every last item. What, for instance, was the commander of a military unit near Tallin meant to do? In April the "Kaitseliit" (armed militiamen), which are structurally part of the republic's Defense Ministry, removed three 24-meter masts from the antenna field under the threat of force. And, despite a protest from the embassy, no apology was forthcoming and the antennas have not been returned.

Our military have long since disappeared from the streets of Estonian cities—officers and NCO's switched to civilian dress a few years ago so as "not to traumatize" the local population too much. But within the garrison of the 144th Division, based on the outskirts of Tallin, everything is like a "normal" military unit—uniforms and meticulous garrison duty at checkpoints, in the staff, and in the military subunits.

"Although there has been no political solution to the troop withdrawal, we are preparing to redeploy," the chief of staff, Guards Colonel Yevgeniy Lazebin, noted. "People's morale is good. An operational group is at work at the new site. The question of rented accommodations for officers' families is being resolved, and South Korea's Samsung has promised to build us residential quarters by August of next year. The first five blocks will be built by the end of the year."

But not everything has been so smooth—combat subunits are having to be temporarily billeted in the field. In the absence of any accommodations in Russia, officers' families have been forced to send their personal effects and furniture to their relatives' apartments.

"And, incidentally, 30 percent of families have nowhere at all to put their things," Guards Lieutenant Colonel Gennadiy Kaverda, the division's psychologist, explained. "This means that some things will have to be sold off, and there is no need to mention how hard officers' families are taking it."

In conclusion, I would like to say the following. For a long time Russian troops were an important factor in the difficult dialogue between Estonia and Russia. Relying on this, Russia tried to solve the problems of social protection

for military pensioners and the civil rights of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia. This tactic did not meet with any particular success. The negotiating process is deadlocked.... Meanwhile, the troops have been leaving for Russia and are being cut back locally. Some people in Estonia have gotten the idea that it is possible not only to insist on an immediate Russian troop withdrawal, but also, if necessary, on "making Russian servicemen withdraw by force." That was the sense of statements made by General Aleksandr Einseln, commander of the Estonian Defense Forces. Fortunately, sober-minded trends have prevailed at top political level in Estonia of late. The fruitful meetings in Tallin between the Estonian leadership and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy Vitaliy Churkin inspire hope that the disputes between the two countries—disputes at the focus of which Russian servicemen have found themselves—will be resolved in a civilized fashion.

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Sign New Privatization Decree

LD1506043594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0420 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Vladimir Konoplitsky]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk June 15 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin is expected to sign a decree soon on a new phase of privatisation, Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told journalists on Wednesday.

Yeltsin is to apply to the Federal Assembly and initiate a bill on a new phase of cheque privatisation which will meet both the interests of the country and those of regions and large cities.

This step by the president, in the opinion of the press secretary, develops and furthers the privatisation ideology worked out by the State Property Committee, and clearly differentates between federal, municipal and private property. Thus, the very dispute about privatisation methods at various levels will be politically settled.

Tackling this problem, the president proceeds from the assumption that under privatisation conditions, it is federal property interests first of all that must be upheld. No personnel reshuffles at the State Property Committee are expected. So, Anatoliy Chubays and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov will have nothing to argue about any longer, Kostikov said.

Text of Presidential Edict on Organized Crime

PM1506102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Takes Emergency Measures in Fight against Crime Orgy"]

[Text] On 14 June, President B. Yeltsin signed the edict "On Urgent Measures to Protect the Population from Banditry and other Manifestations of Organized Crime."

Bearing in mind the acuteness of this problem, we are publishing the document in its entirety.

[Edict begins] For the purposes of protecting the lives and property interests of citizens, ensuring the security of society and the state, and to implement the Russian Federation Federal Program for Stepping Up the Fight Against Crime for 1994-1995 prior to the adoption by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly of legislative acts in the sphere of combating crime, I decree:

1. That a system of urgent measures shall be enacted to combat banditry and other serious crimes committed by organized criminal groups;

—where there is sufficient evidence of an individual's involvement in a gang or other organized criminal group suspected of committing serious crimes and by agreement with the prosecutor's office prior to the institution of criminal proceedings, expert appraisals may be conducted, the results of which may be viewed as evidence in criminal cases of the given category and preliminary investigations may be authorized into the financial and economic activity and property and financial status not only of the individual in question but also his relatives or other persons residing with him in the previous five years and also in respect of physical and legal persons or public associations whose property, resources, or name may have been exploited or used by the suspect;

—for the preparation and implementation of investigations and the prevention and detection of crimes, active use may be made of information resulting from operational investigations, which may be regarded in the prescribed manner as evidence in criminal cases of this category;

—as preventive measures against those suspected or accused of the aforementioned crimes, the following shall not be valid: recognizance not to leave, personal guaranty of a defendant's appearance, guaranty provided by social organizations, or a bond, and the suspect may be detained for a period of up to 30 days;

—bank and commercial confidentiality shall be no bar to the obtaining in the prescribed manner by the organs of the prosecutor's office, internal affairs, counterintelligence, or the tax police of information or documents relating to financial and economic activity, deposits, and dealings relating to the accounts of physical or legal persons involved in the commission of bandit attacks or other serious crimes carried out by organized criminal groups;

—the authorized representatives of the internal affairs and counterintelligence organs shall have the right to inspect the buildings and premises of enterprises, institutions, and organizations irrespective of forms of ownership, acquaint themselves with documentation characterizing their activity, and also examine transport facilities and their drivers and passengers

2. The leaders of the executive of the components of the Federation shall;

—draw up a list of cities and individual localities which are to be kept under special surveillance in connection with the prevalence on those territories of cases of banditry and other manifestations of organized crime;

—instruct the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the Internal Affairs administrations, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, [FCS], and FCS administrations to transfer the personnel of the internal affairs organs and the counterintelligence organs of those cities and individual localities to an intensified form of official operational activity for the performance of special operations in the fight against banditry and other manifestations of organized crime;

—ensure the targeted use of financial resources as material incentives for staffers of the internal affairs and counterintelligence organs and servicemen of the internal troops participating in special operations to combat banditry and other manifestations of organized crime and also those working in the intensified form of operations in cities and individual localities;

—elaborate and implement through the legislative organs of the components of the Federation additional measures of a legal character for the intensification of the struggle against banditry and other manifestations of organized crime.

3. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Russian Federation FCS shall, within 10 days, elaborate and send to the leaders of subordinate organs a joint instruction on the procedure for the practical implementation of the norms of the present Edict.

4. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's office is instructed to establish permanent prosecutor's oversight of the observance of legislation in the implementation of the present Edict.

5. The present Edict shall be sent to the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

6. The present shall go into force from the moment of its signing. [no signature as published]

Duma Support for Anti-Crime Measures Uncertain

MK1506062094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Pivovarova (POSTFACTUM) specially for SEGODNYA in the "Struggle" column: "The Federal Counterintelligence Service Promises Tough Measures Against Bandits. The State Duma May Not Support Them"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Security Council and the General Prosecutor's Office are to supervise the implementation of the 5 trillion ruble program to control organized crime. This was announced at a press conference at the end of last week by Security Council Deputy Chairman Vladimir Rubanov and Acting General Prosecutor Aleksey Ilyushenko. On 23 June an expanded collegium will be held at the General Prosecutor's Office on the issue of fighting organized crime.

The new program envisions international cooperation in controlling organized crime, as well as participation by a number of ministries and departments. According to Vladimir Rubanov, work is fully under way on implementing the program.

Counterintelligence chief Sergey Stepashin reported that in combating organized crime, all regular and covert operation means will be employed. Approximately 800 experienced investigators are to be involved. Stepashin said that there is preliminary agreement with major banks on cooperation. In the very near future documents will be signed on dividing functions between the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] and the Internal Affairs Ministry. Stepashin admitted that in implementing the program, to make sure that the rights of 99 percent of citizens are protected, human rights will be violated to an extent. In this connection, the FCS chief expressed concern that the State Duma may not approve the proposed drastic measures.

Responding to questions from journalists, Aleksandr Mikhaylov, chief of the FCS Press Service, who was present at the press conference, said: "If we recall history, in 1918 the capital was swept by robberies and lootings, with people afraid to go out into the street. And then a Moscow commission took emergency measures. The commission made sure that all criminals were caught and shot." In the present conditions, Mikhaylov said, "any tough measures which will be taken with respect to the criminal world will be supported by society."

Zhirinovskiy May Be Charged for Inciting 'War Propaganda'

LD1406135894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By Olga Solodova for CRIME-PRESS]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jun—Aleksey Ilyushenko, the acting procurator-general of the Russian Federation, has made an application to the State Duma requesting that it consent to criminal prosecution being brought against Federal Assembly deputy Vladimir Zhirinovskiy for war propaganda (Article 71 of the Russian Criminal Code) and for inciting ethnic hostility and tension (Article 74 of the Russian Criminal Code).

The information and public relations center of the Russian Procuracy General stated that the conclusions of a preliminary investigation which is now being conducted by the Russian Procuracy General into a criminal case instituted on 26 January of this year in connection with the publication and distribution of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's book "The Last Thrust to the South" formed the grounds for this application.

Intelligence Chief: Service Still Tops Despite Hard Times

LD1406141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—Despite all the reshuffling and financial difficulties, the Russian intelligence remains among the four best secret services in the world which also include the CIA, the Israeli Mossad and the British secret service. "We have always been in the

league and, I hope, will remain there", first deputy director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Vyacheslav Trubnikov told TASS on Tuesday.

He did not specify who occupies which place among the four, but said that hardly any of the secret services would have succeeded to maintain the leading positions had they been in the same financial plight as the SVR.

"I am sure that had the personnel of our 'competitors' been in the same conditions as the Russian intelligence is facing, hardly many of them would have tolerated that. And our men do serve and will serve", Trubnikov said.

The Foreign Intelligence Service which appeared after the collapse of the notorious KGB is no longer engaged in political persecutions. According to Trubnikov, "intelligence ceased to be a semi-state and semi-(communist) party body which it was in the times of the KGB". It no longer works for any political party, advocates no ideology, acts independently and according to law and is controlled by the legislative and executive authorities.

The task of the intelligence is to monitor and assess threats to Russian national interests. "In general the tendencies in world development are favourable for our country, however, the spectrum of threats remains rather wide", Trubnikov said and added that the major threat at present is the "hot spots" on the Russian borders.

Zatulin Resigns From PRES Faction Post

LD1506080994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0645 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—The parliamentary faction of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] accepted the resignation of Konstantin Zatulin as the faction's secretary in the State Duma, the press service of the lower house of the Russian parliament reported today without divulging the reasons for the resignation.

Zatulin retains the post of the chairman of the State Duma Committee for Commonwealth Affairs and Relations with compatriots abroad.

Vladimir Kozhemiakin, who headed Sergey Shakhray secretariat before his election to the State Duma, will replace Zatulin as secretary of the PRES faction in parliament.

Ryabov Rejects Criticism of Constitutional Referendum

LD1406181194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1525 GMT on 14 June 1994 broadcasts a 30-minute program entitled "Debates" chaired by correspondent A.N. Kuryakov with N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, and Doctor of Law Yu.A. Vedeneyev of the Institute of State and Law, in which they discussed the articles that have appeared in the press recently questioning the validity of the 12 December referendum on the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Referring to the allegations, Ryabov starts by noting: "The newspaper IZVESTIYA has called them political dynamite but I would call them political soap because dynamite and soap are rather similar in external appearance but are quite different in their effect. Also, these press articles leave behind only soap bubbles. So, we have not paid any particular attention to these analysts and their deductions."

One of the main areas of criticism has been about alleged discrepancies in the total numbers of votes cast, "but these authors have either forgotten or have deliberately omitted the other five parties that took part in the elections. They did not surmount the five percent barrier, but some people did vote for them; they accounted together for 4.7 million votes. So if one compares the number of votes cast in favor of the Constitution with the number of votes cast for the party lists, one can see that the Constitution was passed."

Ryabov goes on to examine various details of the allegations and produced documentary evidence to show that they were untrue. He concludes: "There is not a single documented fact that proves these falsifications, and certainly none showing massive falsifications, which these few authors write about so ecstatically."

Legal expert Vedeneyev points out that the Supreme Court has issued a decision confirming the validity of the referendum. Ryabov recalls that on 16 March 1994 the Supreme Court had rejected the Russian Communist Workers' Party appeal for the referendum to be deemed invalid. International observers had also approved the validity of the voting, he says.

Vedeneyev says that the political forces which did not like the election results were trying to cast doubt on them. "There is also an attempt to instill uncertainty and dissatisfaction in the public consciousness and once again to initiate the atmosphere of crisis, which was characteristic of 1993." Ryabov agrees and goes on: "This sort of article is coming from representatives of certain political forces that are either outside the legitimate political system such as the Russian Communist Workers' Party or else are formally within the real political system, but because of the forms and methods of struggle they use cannot be fully part of this system."

Ryabov suggests that these allegations had been raised now in response to the draft law guaranteeing electoral rights, which has been submitted by the president to the Federal Assembly.

Ryabov concludes by recalling that all legal suits against the validity of the referendum had been rejected and the authors of the recent allegations "for some reason are not in a hurry to apply to the courts."

Number of Migrants May Reach 6 Million

MK1506065094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report under the "Refugees" rubric: "There May Soon Be 6 Million Migrants in Russia. Despairing Deserters Get Together in 'Death Squads'"]

[Text] Dmitriy Rogozin, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities [CRC], and Garold Zavadko, cochairman of the "Union of Russian Refugees," held a press conference yesterday at which they told journalists about the position of Russian refugees in Russia. They think it has deteriorated sharply today. As the "Union of Russian Refugees" stated, a campaign has begun lately to evict refugees staying in holiday hotels near Moscow. Several court cases have been heard and have reached a decision "to evict without providing [alternative] housing." In the opinion of Mr. Zavadko, there is "collusion between organs of state power against the refugees and a threat of their second deportation."

Speaking about prospects for migration of the "Slavic population" from CIS countries and the Baltic states to Russia, Dmitriy Rogozin expects that some 6 million forced migrants may arrive in Russia in the next two years. It was pointed out that the real number exceeds that registered by the Federal Migration Service. Pointing to the fact that under the government directives of 1 May 1994 each refugee should be issued with 1 million rubles for resettlement, Mr. Rogozin told those present to figure out the sum that will have to be earmarked from the state budget. The CRC leader also sharply criticized the current relief system. Dmitriy Rogozin hopes that during the meeting which he may have with Boris Yeltsin during the coming month he will be able to convince the president to give a tax break to the charity tasked with providing real aid to refugees.

Mr. Rogozin and Mr. Zavadko singled out the problem of the Russian draftees who have deserted from national armies over politically motivated harassment by their fellow draftees. In the opinion of Dmitriy Rogozin, the despairing deserters, unless they get assistance, may take refuge in quarters close to the shadow economy or even form the basis for "death squads" which would "start taking vengeance on those to blame for their plight."

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Yeltsin: Army To Be Reduced to 1.5 Million

LD1506031794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0220 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Vladimir Konoplitskiy]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk, 15 Jun—At a meeting with Amur Oblast officials today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin spoke about the strategic purpose of reducing the strength of the Russian Army from three million servicemen to one and a half million.

Speaking about the provision of the Russian Army with technical equipment, the president said it did not need much equipment, but it needed mobile weapons which could compete on international market.

Boris Yeltsin spoke about an intention to share the arms markets for selling Russian military equipment and said that following the Malaysian example, Thailand and Australia would also be buying Russian weapons. "There are no ideological obstacles to this," Boris Yeltsin stressed.

Export Controls Imposed on Biological War Materials

LD1406165494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed today a resolution imposing a strict control on exports of gene materials which could be used in a biological warfare.

The list of substances under control includes "pathogenes ... and their genetically changed forms, fragments of genetical material and equipment, which could be used in preparation of bacteriological (biological) and toxic weapons", the presidential press service reported. [ellipses as received]

Foton Satellite Launched From Plesetsk Cosmodrome

LD1406201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Russia's air and space forces (ASP) launched a Foton satellite with the Soyuz carrier rocket from the Plesetsk space site at 20:00 Moscow time.

The Foton satellite which weighs 6,200 kg will carry out a series of material processing experiments. The program will last 18 days plus one reserve day. The satellite carries 700 kg of research equipment. Experiments were developed at the experimental engineering office in Moscow.

The launch was attended by members of the former Russian royal family, designers of space technologies and representatives of the European space agency.

The program envisages the launch of another Foton satellite. The first Foton satellite was launched on April 16 1985. Eight Fotons have so far been launched. The last launch took place on October 8 1992.

Top Generals Deny Defense Ministry 'Split'

PM1506102594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed feature under the "At First Hand" rubric: "Is There Opposition Within the Defense Ministry?"]

[Text] In recent months a number of publications have used various conversations behind the scenes or in the corridors of power, chance details, and sometimes even outright rumor and gossip to constantly raise the subject of official and personal relationships in the top military leadership. Conclusions have been drawn about the alleged existence of serious differences between the defense minister, his deputies, and other members of the Russian Defense Ministry Collegium. From time to time either one general or another will be dubbed an open or secret opposition figure by the press....

Well, official—much less, personal—relationships, and at such high level, are a very delicate matter. It has always been considered inappropriate to make certain aspects of them public. But since things are now reaching the point where this problem is being intensively given essentially political overtones, we need nonetheless to make things clear.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Editorial Office asked a number of Defense Ministry leaders and members of the Defense Ministry Collegium to answer the following questions:

1. How do you assess the current state of official and personal relationships among the leading staff of the Armed Forces, and the atmosphere at Defense Ministry Collegium sessions and in general when highly important decisions on issues of the Armed Forces' life and activity are being made?

2. What is your attitude to articles—including those about you personally—which claim that relations within the Armed Forces are now complex and contradictory, and that there is a kind of split and an interpersonal struggle under way?

Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister:

1-2. There is a businesslike, constructive relationship within the Defense Ministry leadership. Not least I can note with satisfaction the equable, comradely relations with Army General P.S. Grachev, defense minister.

Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and first deputy defense minister:

1. I cannot say what official and personal relationships within the Defense Ministry leading staff were like in years gone by. But I can state with complete authority that the current atmosphere at the Defense Ministry can be expressed in two words—"working condition." Let me explain what I mean by this. The most important decisions on the issues of Armed Forces reform and their activity and everyday life are not at all reached in secret or behind the scenes—as is sometimes claimed in the mass media. Also groundless are the claims that all the recent decisions on Armed Forces reform have been unexpected and have come out of the blue for most Defense Ministry leaders.

In confirmation of that I would cite a very recent incident. Literally the other day we were reporting our proposals to the defense minister on optimizing the organizational and staffing structure of the Armed Forces' central apparatus. In particular, this report clarified the list of posts taking account of existing realities. The preparatory work was done with the involvement of the commanders in chief of the branches of service, commanders of combat arms, and so forth. There were no behind-the-scenes games or intrigues. A representative of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff also took part in the work. This is important too—it is yet more evidence of the growing civil control over the Armed Forces' activity.

A detailed report was made, analyzing why a certain decision was being made. The defense minister supported our proposals. Incidentally, as part of my job as chief of the General Staff I report to the minister highly important documents prepared by the General Staff. Some 95 percent of these documents—maybe an even higher percentage—are adopted on first submission. This too, I think, is typical of the level of working relations within the Defense Ministry. And it is nothing to do with me personally. It is a question of the prestige of the General Staff, which has highly professional officers and generals working for it. It is thanks to their supreme responsibility! For some reason I find it easy talking with my boss, the defense minister.

As for Defense Ministry Collegium sessions—first and foremost, I should mention the openness between Collegium members. There are plenty of examples of issues being worked out at deputy minister or branch of service commander in chief level and then being reported to the Collegium as an initiative. I do not recall a single instance when the minister rejected our proposals.

2. I think that it is clear from my response to the first question that the press reports to the effect that people in the Defense Ministry take no account of the opinion of the chief of the General Staff are without any real foundation. I consider such articles an attempt to split the leading staff of the Armed Forces. What is the objective? It is, I think, to create a climate of distrust between us and, as a result, to get us involved in a political struggle on the side of various forces. Just look at what these articles are about.... They alleged that First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin had "not become part of the military collective." That "Afghan" generals oppose the others and, moreover, that there is fierce confrontation between certain groupings within the Defense Ministry. But what is typical is that nobody knows about such groupings—they simply do not exist.

Now to the rumors which are also being put about in the press claiming that there is a strained relationship between the defense minister and the chief of the General Staff. All lies! Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev and I are not personal friends, but we have a good working relationship. And that is the most important thing when it comes to doing to the job.

Colonel General Boris Gromov, deputy defense minister:

1. There has indeed been some talk of late about serious differences among the Russian Armed Forces leadership. What can I say? To my mind, relations between the defense minister, his deputies, and the commanders in chief—in other words, the Collegium members—are now just the way they should be. Businesslike and calm. All our complex problems—and we have no easy ones—are being resolved.

As a rule, everyone gets to speak at Collegium sessions. As far as I am concerned, I express my opinion to the extent I consider necessary. There are no restrictions here. I think that this will be confirmed by the fact that there is always an atmosphere at the sessions that makes it possible to discuss and resolve any issues calmly and professionally. The defense minister's attitude to all Collegium members is very equable, businesslike, and—I would particularly like to emphasize this—respectful. This too, you will understand, makes it possible for everyone to say what they consider needs saying and to discuss important problems without any reservations—just as their experience and their own assessments of the state of affairs prompt them to.

All the more so as I have things to recall. As commander of Kiev Military District, I had to attend the USSR Defense Ministry Collegium. When I was appointed first deputy defense minister, I naturally took part in the work of the Union MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Collegium. The atmosphere at our sessions, if compared with those days, is considerably more democratic. And there are simply no advance instructions or any kind of pressure about how to speak or what to say.

It is logical to ask whether this happens outside the auditorium. We have normal relationships which allow us—both individually and jointly—to carry out our official duties normally. In short, there is nothing between Collegium members of the kind that has been reported in the mass media—no hostility and no covert opposition to the minister.

2. There have been lots of articles about me, and, clearly, there will continue to be. I try not to comment on them. I think that anyone with a definite experience of life, a man of dignity and honor, and a man of some humor must ultimately take that attitude to articles about him personally. It is another matter when state interests are affected. I recall that I won a court case when Colonel Vilen Martirosyan, my colleague in the former Union corps of deputies and now a "genuine Ukrainian," called me a possible military dictator in a Kiev newspaper in 1990.

If you take other articles, also written, as a rule, on the basis of rumor (I consider that articles about relationships within the Russian Federation Defense Ministry fall into precisely this category), then, of course, you would like to respond, not least in the press. But refuting fabrications and rumors is an ignoble task, and sometimes unnecessary. Nonetheless, the "bearers of the truth" cannot be dissuaded. They will continue their petty intrigues. One thing is reassuring—there are far fewer of these people than there are of those who understand the position of the person talking or writing. And time will sort everything out.

Army General Konstantin Kobets, Russian Federation chief military inspector and deputy defense minister:

1. I would like to note straightaway that there has never been an instance when the Defense Ministry Collegium failed to reach any decision unanimously. Of course, there are disputed points. We receive in advance all the issues which it is planned to examine at the Collegium, and, naturally, we study them carefully. The opinions of the deputy ministers and commanders in chief are always taken into account. I repeat—always! If we fail to reach a unified decision, a working group of experts from all Armed Forces branches of services has to be set up. All the "pros" and "cons" are taken into account. And only after this is the matter put to the Collegium session.

Respecting a different opinion is a typical feature of the defense minister's and one that I would particularly note. And this has become the rule for our relations at Collegium sessions. But if a decision is made, it has to be implemented. There can be no excuses or reservations about it.

On the whole, I believe that the Defense Ministry in its work professes the following main principle: We are all in the same boat and we are all working to the "commander's plan"—that person being the supreme commander in chief or the defense minister, depending on the importance of the issue. But I would also like to say something about personal relationships. Our families often meet up outside of work—on holidays, for instance. I think that this says a lot too.

2. Articles about allegedly strained relations between Defense Ministry leaders primarily surprise me rather than evoking hostility. Because there is not a grain of truth in them. Where does all this gossip come from? So I would say to journalists—don't use random, unchecked information. Don't cheat your readers!

Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Ground Forces:

1. It would be wrong to say that each member of the Defense Ministry Collegium cannot have his own

opinion. After all, we prepare in advance for the discussion of the matters at issue, and we prepare seriously. It is normal that everyone should have their own opinion. I think that the defense minister is quite right to listen to his deputies and commanders in chief. I do not recall his ever saying "That's enough!" to someone, even if he disagrees with him. Or that he takes the view that he has formed his own opinion and that yours does not interest him.... All proposals are listened to attentively.

I am sure that the atmosphere at the Collegium should be like this. It is all the more absurd to claim that if some Collegium member has his own view of a specific problem, he becomes an opponent of the minister or, moreover, moves into opposition.... We have a normal working atmosphere. I personally do not know of any overt or covert opposition. So why are there constantly articles in the press about this? So as to set us Collegium members against each other? To sow distrust among us? A lack of trust in the minister on our part, and in us on his. Incidentally, one thing is absolutely clear. All such articles are aimed one way or the other at creating an unhealthy atmosphere around the Armed Forces.

The fact that once the Collegium has adopted a decision, the decree needs to be strictly monitored is another matter. We have been insufficiently demanding in this area [imenno zdes u nas prinizhen spros]. Clearly, that is the fault of the Collegium secretary, who has failed to provide timely information to the minister, and it is our fault—us Collegium members. Previously adopted decisions can be forgotten about amid our ongoing work. That is something that should be criticized.

2. My opinion is this. Criticism of the Army has entered a new phase, if I can put it that way. In the Gorbachev era attacks were sanctioned from on high so as to ensure that the people had no doubt about the Union leadership's attitude toward the Armed Forces. And the USSR president himself set the tone. The people, as a result, started to lose faith in the Army's prestige. False premises typical of Gorbachev (talking, for instance, about cutting back some divisions, he sometimes tried to add: "I've taken the trough away from a few generals") were picked up on from below. Everyone knows what this led to.

Now, in my view, the attacks on the Armed Forces are connected with attempts by various political forces and parties to sow discord among the Defense Ministry leadership and to pressure the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Collegium and assert their own influence in military circles. Everyone knows that in our difficult time the Armed Forces are the only stable organism in the state. The Army can do a very great deal to strengthen Russian statehood. But certain politicians are simply uninterested in this. For them one slogan is acceptable—the worse, the better. That is where the current criticism comes from. All kinds of rumors and fables get into the press by whatever means. For instance, I was struck by an article in KOMMERSANT-DAILY to the effect that Semenov is in opposition to the defense minister. But what is typical is that nobody, including the writer, could explain where this information came form. "Somebody told me, I heard it somewhere"—those are not arguments. That is why I have the reaction to these articles that I have.

Former Defense Minister on Military Reform

OW1506005594 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 2304 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Interview with former Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, by an unidentified correspondent, place and date not given—recorded; from the "Aty-Baty" program]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] When you became defense minister, how did you envision the new army, how did you envision the reforms of the army that we had and, in your opinion, how much were you able to achieve of what you had envisioned?

[Shaposhnikov] The Russian Army absorbed the major part of the Soviet Armed Forces and naturally, at that time it was, and still is, of great interest to me. I cannot remain indifferent to the issue of what is going on in the army with regard to reforms. I have several views, or rather, thoughts on the subject and I would like to share them.

The army has lost the simple and clear reference point that the concept of the enemy used to provide. When the civil war ended, our leaders, the leaders of the young Soviet Republic, began a tenfold reduction of the armed forces despite being surrounded by the enemy. Today, the opportunity exists and such conditions have been created that I am actually convinced that no one will attack us if we have reliable strategic forces and border troops.

I am not revealing any secrets by telling you that within the Defense Ministry, like in any other ministry, there is definite lobbying. Speaking unconditionally, or rather conditionally so as not to correlate it with anyone or anything, as an example let us assume that the General Staff, or the defense minister, gets an idea to abolish the Air Defense High Command. How will the Air Defense High Command react? He will make the rounds of all the directorates, all the services; he will load the problem onto all the scientific research establishments, the Academy of Sciences, and so on; and then he will come back to the minister and report that it is impossible to implement. This would be the same with the Air Force and so on. I will represent all these problems as a thick copse of trees. [Shaposhnikov begins to demonstrate with a pen on the table]

Let us suppose that the trees are standing here and it is decided to thin some of the them out, remove and forget about them. Then, when the minister or someone else grabs hold of the trunk, he finds that all the roots are intertwined below the surface and when he tries to pull the problem [trunk] out, this single trunk begins to rock

all the rest of the trees. Consequently, the minister will find it very difficult to solve the problem in this way.

Therefore, there should be some kind of a state structure or committee, be it under the president or the government, that would concern itself with these reforms and the resolution of all the problems in the system without advocating their own various mercenary interests.

As you know, after the August events, we began with a Military Reform Committee headed by General of the Army Kobets. The committee did not develop for many reasons, such as the Union's disintegration and so on. However, if there were such a body composed of former military people, military scientists, civilian military experts, representatives of the military industrial complex, outstanding politicians, and various other specialists, then we could have done it impartially.

[Correspondent] Three years have passed and we still do not have that kind of a body. Why? How can we explain this?

[Shaposhnikov] That is not a question you should be directing to me. [passage omitted] The army should be apolitical, outside of the political stream. It has a more important and more serious course than adhering to the various political flows, movements, structures, leaders, and so on. Naturally, for me, these issues are also unpleasant, and now even incomprehensible, as they are for you.

For instance, let us take the latest event in Crimea where the situation is becoming supercharged. While the two presidents, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk are talking to each other about it and are working out some kind of a formula to prevent the conflict's settlement through force, suddenly we have Mr. Radetskyy, Ukrainian defense minister, coming out with the statement and virtually thumping the table with his iron fist saying: We will not be stopped by anything, let everyone remember that, we will take any, and even extreme, decisive measures. I think that as a military man he should be silent in these situations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Has our officer, soldier, [pauses] the serviceman become the central figure in the armed forces? Has he, in fact, become the figure on whom our whole military policy is principally focused?

[Shaposhnikov] I would like to believe and think that. However, I am convinced that at present we are still far from that. Especially if there are some advances in this respect then, as we know, there is no limit to perfection in any situation.

Antiterrorist Border Guard Unit To Be Formed

MK1506070094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Border Guards Acquire Their Own 'Alfa'"]

[Text] As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned, recently yet another antiterrorist unit has been created in Russia. Now the task of freeing hostages captured on the border will be handled by specially trained border guard groups.

There will be no conscripts serving in this special task force. At present work is under way to select graduates from border guard schools and reenlisted men for this unit. Antiterrorist groups will not be very large: 15 to 20 people. So far it is planned to create five groups based in different regions of Russian, as a rule near the state border. They will be geared toward securing the release of hostages taken on the country's territory and taken abroad; that is to say, actions on the territory of other states. The special force will be used primarily to free Russian servicemen, including border guards. The decision to use the special unit will be made at a level not below Russian border guards commander.

According to some reports, these groups will be trained by the Alfa force and its regional subdivisions.

Atomic Energy Minister on Nuclear Waste

LD1406172194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Four State Duma committees today held hearings on problems of safety in the handling of radioactive waste. In Russia today there are 14,500 enterprises where there are over 700 sources of radiation. In the opinion of the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, the most dangerous enterprises are those attached to the Ministry of Defense and the (Ministry of Atomic Energy). At our request, Nikolay Yegorov, first deputy minister of atomic energy, comments on this.

[Begin Yegorov recording] Those storehouses where, at present, radioactive waste is being dumped or stored do not satisfy contemporary requirements, in other words those requirements that were made following the Chernobyl disaster and which are in accordance with international requirements. But radiation safety at these storehouses is being monitored and I think—from my point of view—it is normal. Present-day requirements stipulate that storehouses should be protected from air attacks, from natural disasters—earthquakes and a number of other extreme factors. These storehouses do not comply with these requirements because when they were designed such norms did not exist. [end recording]

Closing Chernobyl To Benefit Foreign Companies

LD1406145394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS column: "Beneficial to Foreign Companies"]

[Text] The question of the possible closure of the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station has been discussed

increasingly often recently by the world community, not only at an environmental and social level but also at a political level.

Circles close to the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy have stated that if such a step is taken it will have primarily political overtones. In the opinion of the experts, this will be beneficial first and foremost to the leading foreign nuclear power generation companies.

Scientist Invents New System of Radiation Protection

LD1506105894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik June 15 TASS—A system protecting shelters and homes against radioactive fallout has been invented and tested at a special testing range by Kuzer Varukov, a scientist working at the university in Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria (Russian autonomy).

A republican commission concluded that "the inventor proved in practice the possibility of making apartments and industrial premises impervious to radiation and providing effective collective protection to urban and rural residents at a lower cost".

The invention can be used in the clear-up operations after accidents at nuclear power plants and other enterprises which deal with radioactive and toxic substances. It has been found effective by specialists of the Russian nuclear power ministry. In their opinion, it allows to localize emission of harmful radiation and substances for the duration of work aimed at preventing discharge of nuclides in the environment.

Regional Affairs

Plans for Yeltsin Amur, Tuva Visits Outlined

PM1506093994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "President B. Yeltsin Makes an Inspection Tour of the Country"]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk—On 14 June President B. Yeltsin once again set out on a tour of the country. This time he has come to the city of Blagoveshchensk, situated at the confluence of the Zeya and Amur Rivers, where Russian soil ends.

Economic matters constitute the chief reason why Yeltsin has made the many-hour flight from Moscow. More accurately, he intends to familiarize himself on the spot with the painful problems which get on the nerves of the population of Amur Kray, while adopted government decisions are still not being implemented. In other words, Yeltsin, freed from the grueling confrontation with the representative power in the form of the soviets, is returning once again to the practice of inspection tours and live contact with people.

The priority issues which the local leaders intend to discuss with the president include border trade, the creation of a free economic zone, and the kray's electricity supply. Each of these has had noticeable repercussions on a Russia-wide scale. Therefore, before the president left Moscow, Blagoveshchensk was visited by Vice Premier A. Shokhin; Yu. Shafranik, leader of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy; and representatives of the Ministry of Finance and other departments. To all appearances, the president does not intend to get away with promises to investigate everything but to adopt some decisions on the spot.

According to A. Korabelshchikov, his aide, Yeltsin is interested in the reaction of the regions' leaders to his recent economic edicts, particularly as another block of documents is being prepared in this field. He intends to speak about the progress of the economic reform at the final conference in Blagoveshchensk. In addition, Amur Oblast is one of the few producers of soybeans in the country. The oblast's people produce this crop with difficulty, but things are extremely bad with regard to reorganizing the matter. Therefore, local agrarian specialists have invited the president to a collective farm, that is to say, to the "Partizan" Limited Partnership.

After familiarizing himself with the problems of Amur Oblast, it is in Yeltsin's plans to fly to the Tuva Republic. Although this invitation is linked with a jubilee, the 50th anniversary of the former Tuva's joining Russia, the president will not merely attend a demonstration concert by local dancers who wish to show their art on a mountain pasture to the accompaniment of the guttural sounds of national instruments. Problems of developing national culture and museum work and the position of the intelligentsia will be discussed with the republic's leadership.

In parallel, just as in Amur Oblast, the president plans to investigate why a whole number of programs approved in Moscow with assurances of financial support—particularly those aimed at developing the road network in the republic, creating an air bridge between Kyzyl and Moscow, and also constructing a plant for the processing of hides—have come to a standstill or have not been started up at all. It was explained to IZVESTIYA's correspondent in the presidential apparatus, however, that the president will not take an aircraft full of money to Kyzyl, as was formerly the case at Barnaul. There will be a discussion of executive discipline—which seems sensible.

Yeltsin Arrives in Blagoveshchensk; Tours Amur Oblast

Concerned About Dependence on Subsidies

LD1406133794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk [center of Amur Oblast], 14 Jun—Boris Yeltsin is concerned that a region of such rich natural potential as Amur Oblast should be living off subsidies from the federal budget. The Russian president stated this today on his arrival in Blagoveshchensk.

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Boris Yeltsin said that the Amur Oblast administration chief had visited him recently and they had put their heads together over how to revitalize the region. The president said that one of the aims of his trip to Amur Oblast and the Tuva Republic was to study the potential of these regions with a view to identifying measures to help extricate their economies from crisis.

Visits Shipbuilding Plant

LD1506054594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Vladimir Konoplitsky]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk June 15 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday visited the Blagoveshchensk shipbuilding plant. The workers and managerial personnel of the plant told Yeltsin about a variety of problems, the main of which is to find customers for the manufacture of fishing seiners. The president of russian and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin made entries in the visitors' book promising the shipbuilders to promote a solution to the problem.

Shipbuilders told ITAR-TASS that they have not been receiving wages since February. Customers—the fishery enterprises all over Far East, acutely need the plant's products but nevertheless are unable to pay for the completed seiners. This is why the plant managament sends workers on forced leaves. With the plant personnel numbering 1,300, the managament has already sent 1,000 shipbuilders on leave in June.

As of now, the default of payment for completed and building ships amount to 8,000 million roubles.

The defence and interior ministries owe about 1,500 million roubles to the plant.

The president toured a small fishing seiner of the latest make and visited the shipbuilding shop.

During a meeting with the management of the plant, Boris Yeltsin once again promised to give assistance in the search for customers for large fishing seiners and suggested making small boats, which farmers need, on direct, non-state orders.

To Introduce Bankruptcy Procedures

LD1506061594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Vladimir Konoplitsky]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk June 15 TASS—A concrete mechanism of bankruptcy indicating bankrupt enterprises every month will be put into effect in the near future in accordance with the Russian president's decree. This was announced by Boris Yeltsin at a meeting with managers of enterprises of the Amur region on Wednesday.

President Yeltsin, currently on a working visit to the city of Blagoveshchensk and the republic of Tuva, believes that "the current task is to transfer reforms from a macro to a micro level, to the level of enterprises," which should more actively attract investments to boost production and resolve social tasks.

"The times when enterprises and whole regions lived at the expense of the state budget are over. It is necessary to find one's own resources to survive since living on subsidies under market conditions is a shame," Yeltsin said.

He recommended to regional heads to make use of the president's recent decree on the expansion of the activities of foreign banks on the territory of the Russian Federation and attract major Korean or Japanese capital into the region.

Comments on Tax Issues

LD1506102794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast; Aleksandr Shkirando report over video; correspondent identified by caption]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin completed his visit to Amur Oblast today, and he and his entourage have left for the Tuva Republic. Just a few hours ago Aleksandr Shkirando, our special correspondent, sent us a report from Blagoveshchensk on Boris Yeltsin's working trip to Amur oblast.

[Begin recording] [Shkirando, over video showing Yeltsin in a workshop talking to staff; Blagoveshchensk identified by caption] The itinerary of the Russian president's working visit to Blagoveshchensk is extremely full. In the morning Boris Nikolayevich visited the shipyard and met its workers.

[Yeltsin, surrounded by a crowd in workshop, addresses unidentified woman in the crowd] How much is your pension?

[Woman] Seventy-three. [not further identified]

[Yeltsin] Seventy-three. That is not much.

[Woman] Yes, that is a small amount.

[Yeltsin] Perhaps we need to raise pensions this year, in two or three months. I understand that your wages amount to about 200,000, 250,000 or 300,000. Am I right? Three hundred thousand is enough to live on, is it not? Without luxuries but enough, especially considering that both food and consumer goods shops are full. Those things of the past just do not exist any longer. One no longer has to suffer the humiliation of waiting in lines. One can buy everything. But...of course, things are expensive. That is without doubt.

[Shkirando] The president also talked about the problem of taxes, which is a dire problem for all Russian citizens.

[Yeltsin] All production taxes, according to the 15 economic decrees I signed, will be cut by about 10-20 percent this year. It will vary from industry to industry.

[Unidentified man] Production taxes?

[Yeltsin] Yes, production taxes. As to the income tax, there will be several levels to it. We have rich people who earn 5 million a month. Their earnings must of course be properly chopped, while those who receive 300,000-400,000 or up to 500,000 should be taxed proportionately and in a balanced way.

[Shkirando] To help the president address the whole range of issues, high ranking leaders and government officials, including Shokhin, Zaveryukha, and Shafrannik, arrived with him in Blagoveshchensk. Local authorities have expressed the hope that at long last a number of dire problems affecting all of the Far East will be addressed. [end recording]

Approves New Space Center

LD1506115794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 15 ITAR-TASS—The idea of building a new Russian space centre in the Amur region, which would help effectively solve the Baykonur problem, was supported by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to Blagoveshchensk.

During the president's visit, the question was discussed with the chief of the space-equipment testing centre Major-General Aleksandr Vinidiktov.

According to Vinidiktov, he did not have to convince Boris Yeltsin that the new space project is advisable. The president, who is now touring Russia's eastern regions, was ready to support the idea.

The problem of Baykonur is associated with the fact that following the break up of the former Soviet Union, the country's main space centre found itself on the territory of a "foreign country", the newly independent state of Kazakhstan. Russia is now using it under a temporary agreement with Kazakhstan but needs independence for pursuing its own space policy. The Russian space forces and other interested parties are now working to expand the space centre in the northern Plesetsk and looking for a suitable place for a new space centre in southern Russia capable of performing a number of functions which Baykonur alone can handle at present.

The Government of Russia has prepared a draft resolution "On the Development of the Cosmodrome in Plesetsk and the Creation of a Space Centre in the Far Eastern Region of the Russian Federation".

Svobodny-18, a former military settlement in the far east, is probably the best choice as it has a ramified infrastructure worth several hundreds of billions of rubles and its personnel trained to service combat missile complexes can be easily retrained to launch boosters with space craft. The new space centre would also create new jobs for the Amur-Baykal main line builders and local machine-builders.

Ahead of the full-scale development of the new space centre, a space equipment testing centre is already operating at Svobodny as part of the Russian space forces. Its specialists are preparing the launches of the Rokot boosters scheduled for 1996.

Russia, Bashkorstan Treaty To Be Drafted

LD1506103294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 15 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today set up a commission to prepare a bilateral treaty between the Russian Federation and one of its constituent parts, the Republic of Bashkortostan. The treaty is due to divide powers between the federation and its component republic and decide on the delegation of powers between the bodies of state authorities of Russia and Bashkortostan, the presidential press service announced today.

Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray is appointed to head the commission.

Earlier, Moscow signed a treaty with Tatarstan, another component republic of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Appoints Representative in Tomsk Oblast

PM1406145994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Official News" heading]

[Text] By edict Boris Yeltsin has appointed Aleksandr Fedenev to be the Russian Federation President's representative in Tomsk Oblast.

CSCE-Initiated Caucasus Meeting Held

LD1406201094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 14 Jun—The latest meeting of delegations from Georgia, South and North Ossetia, and representatives of the CSCE, aimed at continuing the search for peace and reconciliation, which began after the dialogue on 12 May, took place in Vladikavkaz today on the initiative of the CSCE mission in Georgia.

The parties agreed in particular on the need to carry out joint work to stabilize the situation in the conflict zone, to fight organized crime, to restore road and rail traffic between Tskhinvali and other towns, to begin cooperating on economic revival, and to restore housing and the appropriate infrastructure.

The meeting participants agreed to help keep peace and law and order in the conflict zone by means of observation by the CSCE mission. There are proposals for the practical and legal basis to be created jointly for the speedy return of refugees and for an appeal to be made to the peacekeeping forces for the preparation of the necessary conditions to guarantee the refugees safety and also for enlisting the support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs.

Chechen Leader on Heavy Casualties in Groznyy

LD1406124094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 14 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jun—Speaking on behalf of the Chechen government of popular trust, its leader Yaragi Mamodayev today expressed his condolences to compatriots over the tragic events in Groznyy. Commenting on the latest developments to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said: "This bloodshed shows that the process of self-annihilation of the Chechen people, against which our government has been warning everyone for a whole year, is exacerbating." Yaragi Mamodayev cited as evidence of this the fact that forces which, until quite recently, could in effect have been described as allies, for one reason or another clashed in Groznyy on 13 June.

According to Yaragi Mamodayev, more people have been killed in Chechnya since the first bloody conflict in June last year than in the open war in former Yugoslavia. The number of casualties in yesterday's tragedy was also several times higher than official figures suggest.

It is precisely because each day and each hour of the confrontation is claiming more human lives that our government once again urges the present Chechen leadership to seek reconciliation, not just in order to ensure peace for our compatriots, but for the sake of the very future of the Chechen people, Yaragi Mamodayev stressed.

Opposition Says Hundreds Killed

LD1506134194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1221 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The Chechen opposition stated that from 180 to 300 people had been killed as a result of the armed clashes in Grozny last Sunday.

The Chechen Interim Council, which opposites [as received] to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said that innocent people had suffered during these clashes, including women and children.

Official authorities in Groznyy refuted this information saying that no more than ten people had been killed and no more than sixty wounded.

The armed clashes between government forces and the militant group of Ruslan Labazanov took place in a district of Groznyy. The clashes followed the order to disarm illegal armed formations in Chechnya issued by Chechen Military Commander Sultan Geliskhanov.

The opposition headquarters refuted the government statement that a wide-scale and decisive struggle against crime had begun in the republic. The opposition said that the Chechen leadership had started the bloodshed in order to eliminate the members of the armed group whom it had considered as supporters not so long ago.

The Interim Council said that opposition activist Labazanov was a witness to many criminal actions by the leadership. That is why the decision was taken to kill him, an opposition representative, who did not want his name to be revealed, went on to say.

Labazanov has managed to flee with a group of militants.

Luzhkov Urges Tighter Registration Rules

MK1506081094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Mikhail Dineyev report: "Moscow Government Sitting. Moscow Authorities Ready To Override Laws"]

[Text] Yesterday's session of the city administration discussed a draft decree on progress made to carry out Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov's directive "On the Imposition of Special Rules of Sojourn in the City of Moscow, the Russian Federation Capital, for Citizens Permanently Resident Outside Russia." Speakers at the session put forward such radical ideas on tightening the rules in Moscow that they themselves came to doubt their legality. However, Luzhkov thought, Moscow will live in accordance with its own ideas of human rights even if they contravene the laws in force.

The Moscow administration has been more active of late in pressing for the recognition of Moscow as a city with a special status. Yesterday, for example, it was proposed during the session to further tighten the registration rules in force in Moscow by increasing liability and the size of fine for violating them. The majority of participants in

the session felt that citizens trying to evade registration should be subject to "extremely large" fines, a detention for up to 30 days, and subsequent expulsion from Moscow.

Yesterday's discussion, however, was not limited to the questions of registration of visitors in Moscow. Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov announced a new presidential edict on combating banditry and organized crime which considerably widens the powers of law and order organs. The mayor thought the document gives the go-ahead for resolute actions by the Moscow administration. In this connection, Luzhkov proposed a series of steps aimed at freeing the city from "visiting thieves" and stabilizing the crime situation in the city. In particular he declared it necessary to demand that the Foreign Ministry tighten the visa rules for citizens arriving in Moscow from countries "with a complex situation," having in mind the developing countries of Africa and Asia. The Moscow government premier thinks that in imposing tough measures one should not be hidebound by legislation because "it is especially important to throw out of Moscow those who should not be here."

Sergey Dontsov, head of the City Hall legal administration, tried to argue against the view of his own boss. Dontsov thinks sending people outside the limits of Moscow and Russia is not only a violation of the right to freedom of movement, it is simply an ineffective measure because "those thrown out go back to the city without ever reaching their destination." "We override laws by bringing in new rules while you render the registration rule impotent," the mayor retorted.

Zhirinovskiy Woos Volgograd Voters

MK1506075194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 94 p 2

[Igor Yemelyanov report in the "Visit" column: "Zhirinovskiy in Volgograd. The LDPR Leader Moved in a Fast Track"]

[Text] On Sunday Vladimir Zhirinovskiy arrived in Volgograd from Krasnodar and, after rushing along in an armored Zil limousine under the protection of several police Opel cars, plunged into the friendly atmosphere of a banquet at the Oktyabrskaya hotel, where from 2200 to midnight he discussed how to set things going in Russia with the governor and the chief of the internal affairs administration. An official meeting next morning was held behind closed doors. The participants declined any comment. After taking a tour around the city and laying wreaths at several historical sites, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy proceeded to the central part of his visit: meeting with the Volgograd electorate.

Some 5,000 to 6,000 people turned up to marvel at the principal Liberal Democrat. Judging by their mood, many were disappointed after a two-hour mono-rally: There was none of the former criticism of present state rulers, with the main critical focus shifted to heads of ethnic provinces.

The LDPR leader's presentation on oblast TV proved to be richer in concept. On a highly topical issue Vladimir Zhirinovsky announced that Russian peacekeeping forces should not be introduced into Abkhazia and Karabakh but withdrawn from there as a matter of urgency and that weapons should be sold to those countries, "leaving them to straighten things out among themselves."

The next meeting with voters heard statements that it was only thanks to unflagging activity by the LDPR faction in the State Duma that six unamenable ministers had left the government and that it was only Zhirinovskiy's trip to Serbia that had helped Yeltsin and Kozyrev correctly to assess the situation and prompted the West to take a more cautious line with respect to former Yugoslavia. The LDPR leader spoke in sharp terms about the State Duma speaker, the president of Kazakhstan, and the communist leaders, and then jumped into the black Zil and rushed off.

Before his departure he expressed his confidence that not 25 percent but 50 percent of the Volgograd electorate will vote for him in the upcoming elections.

International Affairs

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Arrives for Talks

LD1506135394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in the Ukraine today. He intends to discuss a series of joint projects with the Republic's leadership. A large group of Israeli businessmen, who wish to establish business contacts, will arrive in Ukraine on 19 June.

Kravchuk Signs EC Economic Cooperation Agreement

LD1406124894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union on 14 June in Luxembourg. He also signed a provisional agreement on the enactment of the main agreement while it awaits ratification by the parliaments of the 16 [as received] EEC members states. In a comment on the event, Natalya Zaruda, head of the Department for Strategic Analysis and Prognosis of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the EEC creates a mechanism for constant political dialogue and periodic consultations at different levels covering the entire range of political, economic, and cultural issues.

Ukraine and the EEC intend to cooperate in a stage-by-stage transition to greater freedom of movement for goods, services, and capital. In this connection, the agreement stipulates that Ukraine and the EEC discuss before 31 December 1998 the possibility of setting up a free trade zone between the European Community and Ukraine. The document also contains and agreement to hold regular meetings between top officials within the framework of the Joint Cooperation Council and to maintain contact within the Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation.

The agreement is also regarded as an expression of the EEC's support for Ukraine's intention to join GATT. Ukraine and the European Commission will soon begin negotiations on setting up a contact group on coal and steel and on trade in nuclear materials.

Welcomes Signing of Agreement

LD1406190094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The signature of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union took place in Luxembourg on 14 June. This was an announcement made at a briefing at Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the ceremony of signing the document, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said the agreement was laying a qualitatively new legal foundation of our state's inclusion in European integrational processes. As well as being a matter of fundamental priority, he underlined, Ukraine's accession to European economic and political structures is a logical and necessary course of its external policy at the present stage.

The Ukrainian president added that the single Europe would also benefit a lot from cooperation with Ukraine in terms of the availability of transit roads across the territory of Ukraine, rich deposits of raw materials, and tens of millions of highly skilled workers.

If the boat of the Ukrainian state is rocked loose, Kravchuk warned, it can become a potential source of instability on the continent.

Further on Cooperation Agreement

LD1406172994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Luxembourg today on a one-day working visit, following meetings there on Monday [13 June] and Tuesday of the European Union's Council of Foreign Ministers. Also today, he signed an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union.

The document confirms that the EEC member-states will support Ukraine as a sovereign and independent state within its existing borders. The agreement lays down the principles of, and a mechanism for, a permanent political dialogue between Ukraine and the EEC and systems of periodic consultations at different levels on the entire range of political, economic, cultural, and other issues.

The agreement also provides a qualitatively new basis for economic relations between Ukraine and the European Union on market economy principles. The sides will grant each other most favored nation status in trade, and will lift import restrictions with regard to trade agreements in coal, metal, and nuclear materials. Ukraine will also be able to sell its textile products on the European market.

The sides urge employers to lift discriminatory restrictions on employment of the partner country's citizens and ensure that the citizens' pension rights are preserved.

National terms are granted to European Union companies functioning on Ukrainian territory and with regard to access of trade ships to each side's ports.

The Ukraine and Luxembourg foreign ministers signed an air transport agreement.

The Chernobyl aid package to ensure complete shutdown of this nuclear plant and the safety of others will be finally agreed before the G-7 Summit in Naples. Leonid Kravchuk confirmed Kiev's consent to shut down the

Chernobyl reactors if the international community assists Ukraine in this matter.

Article Views Vying Interests in Crimea

PM1506090194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 94 First Edition p

[Article by Viktor Nesterovich, RIA-NOVOSTI special correspondent specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA: "The Crimean Knot"]

[Text] Simferopol-Moscow—The situation on and around the peninsula is being normalized, but no fundamental changes in the various sides' positions have occurred. Confrontation may nevertheless be resolved through talks.

Claims that the situation in and around Crimea are now being normalized are unfortunately not true. In fact there has only been a drop in tension. Kiev and Simferopol have moderated the belligerent tone of their statements and have begun talking less about direct confrontation and conflict between the military units and other force structures on the peninsula. However, no fundamental changes in the various sides' positions have occurred.

The Republic of Crimea authorities are acting on the basis of the restored Constitution of 6 May 1992, which gives them extremely wide-ranging powers to resolve the peninsula's internal problems. As far as mutual relations with Ukraine are concerned, in the Crimean authorities' opinion there are no insoluble problems here. The Constitution clearly notes that Crimea is part of Ukraine. For its part, Ukraine is pointing to the incompatibility of this document with its own Fundamental Law. However, the Crimean authorities' everyday activities are being described by the Republic's capital as separatism dictated by a desire to leave the Ukrainian state.

In this confrontation President Yuriy Meshkov and the Crimean Supreme Council are relying on the unconditional support of an overwhelming majority of the population, which unequivocally gave its opinion on this issue in the poll of 27 March this year. Therefore, a comparison between Crimea and Bosnia is at the very least improper.

Regarding the Crimean Tatars, who, as was stated in the Assembly of the Crimean Tartar People, now comprise approximately 10 percent of the Crimean population, their pro-Ukrainian sympathies have their limits.

Today, all Crimea's influential political forces as represented in the republic's Supreme Council are stressing that they do not oppose incorporation into Ukraine, but only for the establishment of mutual relations with Kiev on a treaty basis [sentence as published]. The demarcation of the two side's powers should be defined as a result of negotiations. But nobody in Simferopol or Kiev knows when these talks will begin. For the time being the delegations from Supreme Councils of Ukraine and Simferopol [as published] have only managed to secure agreement on establishing a working group of experts which by 15 June are required to submit to the Crimean parliament their recommendations for eliminating inconsistencies between the constitutions and other legislative organs [as published] of Crimea and Ukraine.

Yevgeniy Saburov, vice prime minister and leader of the Crimean Council of Ministers, believes that the present process of talks between Kiev and Simferopol will begin after the presidential election in Ukraine. At the present time, serious talks between the two sides are impossible, because Crimea is one of the main topics of the election campaign. Nevertheless, he believes, Kiev will sooner or later arrive at a federative structure, bearing in mind that several more regions of the country are striving for greater autonomy within Ukraine.

For the time being, however, Kiev has practically reached the stage of imposing economic sanctions on Crimea. Emissions of finance to the peninsula have been suspended, which in the inflationary conditions that exist in Ukraine may certainly be regarded as a sanction. The construction of a water pipeline to Simferopol, where people can obtain water for just one hour every day, has been halted. Saburov also regards the policy of whipping up tension around Crimea as an element of the sanctions campaign, which has practically wrecked the tourist season. It represents a direct undermining of Crimea's economic base and an attempt to prevent revenue from reaching the Crimean budget. Sanatoriums in the greater Yalta area, for example, are only 30 percent full, which right now means they are only just managing to survive.

It has not been ruled out that the situation will sorted out, that a normal talks process will be established between Kiev and Simferopol, and that the two sides will succeed in overcoming all their disagreements, primarily their deep suspicion of one another. In my view, this is currently the main obstacle on the path to finding a compromise.

As debates in the Ukrainian parliament regarding Crimea have shown, in this complex situation Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] has successfully demonstrated his political skill and managed to secure the most advantageous position in the election campaign. He has been greatly helped in this task by the national radicals. Particularly useful, for example, has been the remark by Vice Admiral Vadim Kozhin, former Ukrainian Navy commander, who not only demanded the immediate imposition of presidential rule and martial law in Crimea, but also the withdrawal of the Russian Black Sea Fleet from the peninsula within 24 hours. Against this background, in the eyes of Ukrainian public opinion Leonid Makarovich looks like a serious and responsible politician who, while concerned for the unity of Ukraine as a power, is not ruling out other, more strong-arm methods of resolving the Crimean problem.

But the danger of a sharp deterioration of the situation in Crimea is possible even in the absence of any political complications. In an interview he gave to me, Colonel General Valeriy Malikov, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Security Service, who has been stationed in Crimea for a considerable length of time, put forward the idea of establishing a working group under the Crimean Supreme Council to clarify possible misunderstandings between the troops stationed on the peninsula. General Vladimir Lepekhov, head of the Republic of Crimea Security Service, basically agrees with this proposal.

Malikov believes that the situation in Crimea became acute in May because of, among other things, the lack of coordination between various military units which during that period were—in accordance with Soviet tradition—checking out the training which troops had received for the winter and spring period. There are more than enough troops in Crimea: The Black Sea Fleet, which includes a coast defense division and brigade of marines, naval units, a motorized rifle corps, a brigade of the Ukrainian National Guard, and in addition to this, the Crimean militia, which is subordinate to the Republic of Crimea Government. This whole mass of armed men is concentrated in a very restricted space; they are often practically on top of one another.

Nor should we ignore the various special services. According to my incomplete data, there are over 10 Ukrainian, Russian, and Crimean organizations of this sort operating at various levels in Crimea.

A mundane misunderstanding or fateful combination of circumstances is all it would take to trigger an uncontrollable sequence of events whose consequences would be simply impossible to predict. A powder keg cannot be kept in a fire-risk zone forever. Some day it will all go up in a ball of flames.

Therefore, alongside talks between Crimea and Ukraine on normalizing their mutual relations, and between Russia and Ukraine on dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, a no less important task is the establishment of a kind of coordinating center comprising representatives of the power structures operating in Crimea. This center should at the very least coordinate the activity of power departments and provide the civilian authorities and the public with prompt information about all uncoordinated actions and misunderstandings between these departments. The situation will not deteriorate as a result of this. On the contrary, trust will develop between the various sides involved in the conflict, the people of Crimea will at last be able to breathe more freely, and the number of people deciding to vacation by the Black Sea will undoubtedly increase.

'Special Status' for Russia in NATO Partnership Opposed

LD1406141594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Ukraine does not support Russia's intention to seek a special status within the framework of NATO' Partnership for Peace program, the chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's political analysis department, Igor Kharchenko, told IF.

In reply to a question from the INTERFAX-Ukraine news agency Kharchenko said that "practically all member-countries were against any advantages being granted to any country involved in that program, contrary to statements by Russian politicians that Russia's opportunities were far wider than those of other countries."

Kharchenko said that Russia's relations with NATO were crucial to European security.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official said that Ukraine was conducting "a consistent policy in order to take a decent place in the system of collective European security and not to drift either eastwards or westwards."

National Affairs

Association Demands Russian Cossacks' Expulsion From Crimea

AU1406173694 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 7 Jun 94 p 1

["Statement by the Democratic Association 'Ukrayina' Regrading the Deployment of Russian Cossack Formations in the Crimea"; place and date not given]

[Text] Having opted for independence, the Ukrainian people have right away encountered a whole series of complex problems on the road to establishing the statehood. Against the general background of economic crises, the slow advancement of reforms, and the flourishing corruption and crime—features that are more or less typical of all newly created states on the territory of the former USSR, Ukraine stood out as an island of stability and peace. This Ukrainian reserve and solid stability did not suit certain political forces outside Ukraine, in particular (and mainly) in Russia.

Our northern neighbor does not want to content himself with the preliminary results of putting pressure upon Ukraine—the constant inflating of the Crimean issue and the creation and exacerbation of the "Crimean problem." With the criminal experience gained in Karabakh, Abkhazia, and the Dniester Region, Russia is deliberately exercising it on the territory of Ukraine. Let us recall: From the very beginning of the war in the Dniester Region, Russian Cossacks were actively deployed there. Two years ago, during an exacerbation of the Black Sea Fleet problem, aliens with whips already marched through the streets of our Crimean towns. At that time, war could be avoided. However, since that time, training courses and marches of Russian Cossacks in the south and east of our country have been repeatedly held and formations have been created that adhere to the laws of the Russian Federation and protect its interests. A few days ago, paramilitary formations of the foreign state impertinently held their conference—the so-called

"great circle"—on our territory; they guard the Crimean antistate and anti-Ukrainian parliament, and they make trouble and rape women. We demand that Ukrainian citizens be protected from corrupt and armed aliens.

We stress that the formation, development, actions, and financing of the Russian cossackdom are under the immediate protection of the Russian Government. That is why we consider the Cossacks' arrival on our territory as Russia's interference in Ukraine's internal affairs. Particularly, since Ukrainian laws forbid the existence and stay of paramilitary public formations on our territory.

We demand the following:

1) From Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; to immediately submit a note of protest to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the deployment of Russian Cossacks in the Crimea and Russia's active interference in Ukraine's internal affairs;

2) From the Ministry of Internal Affairs; to expel Russian Cossacks from Ukraine and to put criminals from their formations on trial in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation;

3) From the State Committee for Borders; an urgent toughening of control over the situation at the border and the introduction of visas for entering Ukraine in order to put an end to the influx of criminals and to prevent the import of narcotics and weapons.

The passivity of power structures in the given question will be regarded by the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association as an encouragement of anti-Ukrainian and pro-Russian forces and as the involvement of Ukraine's governmental circles in stirring up separatism in the state.

The statement was adopted at the conference of plenipotentiary representatives of the Democratic Association "Ukrayina."

Crimea Debate Continues on Council Deputy Status

LD1406171994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament continued today the debate on the status of the Crimean Supreme Council deputy. Members voted against the amendment requiring them to be guided in their work not only by the law, but by their conscience. They also rejected the amendment requiring them to take an oath of loyalty to the people of Crimea. However, the majority voted to allow deputies to carry personal weapons.

Acting Prime Minister Sums Up Government Performance

LD1406142094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said in a report to the Supreme Council session today that the government has managed for the first time to control the situation without emergency powers or emergency measures and to stop the decline in the public's net money income and the gross national product, as well as the growth of the budget deficit.

"The government has been in office since September last year when the ongoing executive power crisis was worsened by the energy and payment crises which resulted from the ill-considered price and credit policy of the previous government," he said. "At that time forecasts were heard both inside the government and in the media that Ukraine would not survive the crisis and would lose its sovereignty. Therefore, the new government's urgent steps included, first of all, prevention of the payment crisis. The government allocated 2,300 billion karbovantsi in credits and 6,300 billion karbovantsi in budget grants for the harvest and spring sowing. Already 1.3 million of the envisaged 2 million [metric] tonnes of oil products have been supplied to the countryside. The presidential decree 'On provision of finance and credits toward food procurement' was aimed at creating more favorable conditions in agriculture."

One of the government's achievements, according to Zvyahilskyy, was the overcoming of the energy crisis. The energy complex was on the brink of collapse, therefore, the government used hard currency to improve the situation and deliver fuel supplies on more favorable terms than last year. Over five million tonnes of coal was supplied to electric power stations. Restrictions were imposed on the consumption of all types of energy in the industry and at home, "which did not make the government any more popular." However, a number of legislative acts were not passed, including a law on energy saving. The government coordinated the price, budget, and credit policies. "Price control by economic means must become part and parcel of our economic policy," Zvyahilskyy said. "We were warned that all government actions aimed at controlling the prices would lead to accumulation of inflation potential, therefore we had to keep looking for ways of curbing it irrespective of the economic situation. I believe that inflation would make progress if the present government's policy were suddenly changed.

"During our discussions with the National Bank we concluded that it was not necessary to subordinate the National Bank of Ukraine to the Cabinet of Ministers. The government was forced to propose a deficit-free budget to the Supreme Council."

As regards currency regulation, Zvyahilskyy believes, the government proceeds from the position that prices for

energy-carriers, which condition prices for all other goods, including food, fuel and lubricants, and medicines depend on the level of the karbovanets exchange rate. The regulated exchange rate of the karbovanets, together with the government's other antiinflationary measures, facilitated the stabilization of prices on the domestic market. If the real exchange rate of the karbovanets in relation to the dollar fell by 43 times in commercial banks in the whole of 1993, and by 13 times in relation to the Russian ruble, then in five months of this year it fell by 45 percent in relation to the dollar, which corresponds to the volume of the National Bank's credit emission, and the exchange rate of the karbovanets in relation to the Russian ruble remains stable. Yukhym Zvyahilskyy expressed the conviction that the regulated exchange rate of the karbovanets should remain and that trading at the exchange should not be resumed until the karbovanets strengthens. Otherwise, on the first day [of trading] the measures to restrain inflation would have been exhausted.

The level of the average wage is periodically reviewed in order to ensure the social protection of the population. Thus, if the average wage was 81,000 karbovantsi in August last year, then it was 880,000 karbovantsi in April of this year. The poverty level is determined and payments in connection with the price rises have been established with the aim of increasing the targeting of payments. The regulation of consumption funds has been reviewed.

Foreign economic activity is an important factor in the development of the Ukrainian economy. This year, Ukraine's exports were $2.9 million, and imports were $2.9 million. The negative balance of foreign payments has been reduced by several times.

Among the main problems needing urgent resolution, Yukhym Zvyahilskyy singled out the summer harvesting, timely preparations for the winter, and, the most important thing, overcoming the decline in production.

Supreme Soviet Limits President's Power at Local Level

LD1406201594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Today the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on local power bodies and local rule. Deputies rejected the amendments providing for subordination of the local authorities to the Ukrainian president. Observers in Kiev say that this limited the powers of the president at a local level.

In accordance with the law, the heads of the local bodies will be subordinated only to the cabinet of ministers and to the Councils of a higher authority.

On 26 June (after the local elections) the powers of the regional administrations will be transferred to the chairmen and executive committees of the Councils. The Councils' deputies will have the right to be a part of the local executive power.

A member of the parliamentary commission on legal policy, Sergey Sobolev, called on the Ukrainian president not to sign this law since, he said, it contradicted the Ukrainian Constitution. In accordance with provision 89 of the Constitution, deputies of the local councils cannot be members of the executive committees.

MP's Protest Amendments to Local Authorities Law

LD1406222694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1915 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—The Supreme Council of Ukraine evening plenary sitting on 14 June discussed the draft Law of Ukraine "On Changes and Additions to the Law of Ukraine 'On Forming Local Authorities and Self-Government Bodies'." Two drafts of amendments had been put forward, one by the commission for issues of legal policy, judicial, and legal reform, chaired by Volodymyr Stretovych of the "Agrarians of Ukraine" grouping; and the other by the commission for issues of nation building, council activities, and self-government, chaired by Oleksandr Steshenko of the Communist grouping. Differences on positions of principle in them made sure the debate was heated. Virtually all amendments, proposed by the commission for issues of nation building, council activities, and self-government, were passed by a majority vote.

Most disagreement emerged in discussing the following articles:

- Article 4, stipulating that chairmen of councils at all levels, including towns' rayon councils and their executive committees, be accountable and responsible to the relevant councils. In matters of exercising the state executive authority powers delegated to them, they are subordinate to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the chairman of the executive committee at a council of a higher level. The commission for legal policy, judicial, and legal reform was insistent a provision on subordination to the Ukrainian president also be added to this article.
- Article 3, under which both the relevant council's deputies and individuals who are not deputies can be members of an executive committee. This amendment is effectively in breach of Article 85 of Ukraine's Constitution, where it is ruled that a deputy cannot be a member of an executive council. The view of some of the deputies is that the appropriate amendment can also be put forward in the course of examining the draft Law "On Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers" and amendments to the Law "On the President of Ukraine", which it is planned will be considered this week. Appeals by deputies from the groupings of Rukh, "Reforms," "Statehood," Interregional Deputies Group, and others to Oleksandr Tkachenko, Supreme Council of Ukraine first deputy chairman,

who was chairing the sitting, did not encounter support.

- Article 8, saying that after the election of deputies and chairmen of all levels and the formation of executive committees at councils, the Law of Ukraine "On a representative of the Ukrainian president" shall become invalid and the powers of oblast, Kiev and Sevastopol municipal, rayon, Kiev and Sevastopol municipal rayon, and local administrations shall be transferred to the relevant councils' chairmen and executive committees.

The commission for legal policy, judicial, and legal reform proposed that added to this article be a provision that, in the event that elections fail to be held, or were considered not to take place, or there are any breaches of the legislation, local administrations carry on exercising their powers temporarily until the holding of new elections. The amendment was not passed, which gave its authors, notably Rukh's Oleksandr Lavrynovych, reasons to state that Ukraine was thus deprived of its state representative in Crimea as, indeed, it was possible that elections there would fail to take place.

In token of protest against these decisions being passed, some deputies of national democratic orientation left the session's chamber and did not vote on the changes to the law as a whole. Serhiy Sobolyev of the "Reforms" grouping has officially requested the Ukrainian president not to sign this law as it was passed knowingly in breach of Ukraine's current Constitution.

Kravchuk, Kuchma Present Election Programs

LD1406154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] A candidate for this month's presidential elections, the present head of state, Leonid Kravchuk, has said: if he gets elected he will press for adopting a new constitution. He also stands for sharing power between the president and parliament, which, in his view, excludes the possibility of monopolizing authority by one of the branches of power.

This is stated in Kravchuk's election program, which became available to INTERFAX. The program is called "To strengthen the state and speed up reforms through civic concord."

Kravchuk views himself as a supporter of unitarian state with well-developed self-government and broad economic independence for the regions. He stands for settling relations with the Republic of the Crimea legislatively.

Kravchuk calls for developing the CIS, for promoting economic integration in its framework, for having equitable relations with the neighbors, including Russia.

He finds it necessary to radically improve the climate for investment and enable the domestic and foreign entrepreneurs to be equally interested in making investments in Ukraine's industries.

Kravchuk is planning to speed up the implementation of a full-scale monetary reform and the introduction of the grivna.

He thinks it necessary to lower interest rates, separate the funds belonging to enterprises from national revenues and step up privatization under government control.

Kravchuk also finds it possible to have two official languages in the country—Ukrainian and Russian. According to observers, Kravchuk's stand in favor of giving Russian the status of another official language is designed to ensure for him additional votes in elections in Ukraine's east and south-east, where the Russian speaking population is predominant.

Addressing students at the university in Zaporozhye on Monday, another presidential candidate, Leonid Kuchma, strongly criticized the present head of state. The people are capable of comparing their 1990 and 1994 living standards. If they want to continue destroying their economy for another four years, let them reelect Kravchuk, he said.

He stands only for an economic union with Russia, Kuchma pointed out. He never called for forming a Slav union. In this connection he dismissed the relevant statement by Kravchuk and added that it must be embarrassing for a president to tell open lies and attribute such ideas to him.

With reference to the Black Sea Fleet problem Kuchma stressed that today "we would not have spoken about the fact that Ukraine was defeated politically and economically in that area, had the Ukrainian leadership heeded his call for leasing the fleet to Russia a year ago."

IF Note: As regards the popularity of presidential candidates, Leonid Kuchma is in the lead. Witness the poll conducted by Socis- Gallap among 1200 voters in all areas of Ukraine. The poll shows that 19 pct of respondents give preference to Kuchma, 18 pct to Kravchuk, 6 pct to Ivan Plusch and 5 pct to Vladimir Lanovoy. The other contenders are trusted by less than 1 pct of those questioned.

Kravchuk: Elections May Lead to Clash With Supreme Council

LD1506125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The elections of the president and local power bodies scheduled for 26 June in Ukraine can lead to a confrontation between the head of the state and the parliament, believes Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Speaking at a press conference on his return from Luxembourg, Kravchuk declared that a referendum would actually take place in Ukraine on 26 June.

"If the people come to elect the president they will actually give their backing to the presidential-parliamentary form of the state system," he believes.

Kravchuk underlined that in the course of the 26 June elections the president would be elected in accordance with the acting Constitution—both as the head of the state and the head of the executive power.

In this case, he emphasized, in the future the legislature should be brought in line with this provision. "If the Supreme Soviet refuses to do this then a confrontation will be inevitable," declared Kravchuk, who running for the presidency for the second term.

On Tuesday [14 June], Ukraine's Supreme Soviet declined amendments to the decree on the formation of local self-management bodies which stipulates that heads of local councils should be subordinated to the president. The present law preserves their subordination to the government and to the council standing above them.

According to observers, this will lead to a sharp restriction of the president's influence in domestic policy.

"Somebody wants to make these elections into a farce," said Kravchuk. He said that "at first the deputies voted for nationwide elections of the president" and then started to restrict his authorities.

Kravchuk was also critical of the position of communists in the parliament who speak about the need to abolish the presidency in the Republic. He called their actions "a strategy" which is intended "to bar movement forward."

'New Wave Association' Backs Kravchuk for President

LD1406163094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1520 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Lvov—The political council of the New Wave Association has made its decision on support of candidates in the presidential election, Yuriy Shveda, chairman of the association's secretariat, told UNIAN on 14 June. "Only recently New Wave was inclined to support Ivan Plyushch," he said. "But today there are two presidential candidates who really stand a chance to be elected, Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk. Considering this setup, and also the fact that Kuchma represents pro-Russian forces in Ukraine, New Wave has decided to support and campaign for the current president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk.

"Although we have certain reservations about him, and we are particularly dissatisfied with his indecisive attitude to economic reforms and his personnel policy, New Wave sees no alternative to Kravchuk," Shveda told UNIAN.

Poll Shows Kiev Voters Prefer Kravchuk

LD1406174594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The center for regional information problems of the National Academy of Sciences has held a poll in Kiev on people's attitudes to the Ukrainian presidential elections. The results of the poll reveal that 73 percent of the electorate plan to come to the polls on 26 June. The majority—56 percent—intend to vote for Leonid Kravchuk, while 19 percent prefer Oleksandr Moroz, 11 percent—Volodymyr Lanovyy, 7 percent—Leonid Kuchma, and up to 7 percent plan to vote for the other three candidates, Ivan Plyushch, Petro Talanchuk, and Valeriy Babych.

Masol Will Rely on State Planning If He Becomes Premier

LD1406124794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—In an exclusive telephone interview with a UNIAN correspondent yesterday, Vitaliy Masol stated that he is not sure whether his candidacy for the post of prime minister will be submitted for examination by Ukraine's Supreme Council on 15 June. Speaking about the probability of a group of deputies blocking this election because they fundamentally disagree with electing a government before the presidential election, Vitaliy Masol noted: "We are always searching for something—to begin with, how to block the election of people's deputies, then [how to block] the elections to local bodies of power and the presidential election. If the reason for the protests is my candidacy, then I, unlike many people, am not striving for power, because I know what it is and what state the economy is in now."

Vitaliy Masol is convinced that the government should be elected without delay, because it is possible that a president will not be elected on 26 June, and the situation could be repeated in the second round as well. He agreed with the reasons of some politicians who believe that the election of a prime minister now is a risky affair, because a candidate could be proposed by Leonid Kravchuk, but Kuchma could come to power. But he is convinced that it is not permissible to delay the formation of the government for another two months.

In Vitaliy Masol's opinion, the prime minister should head the government, and not the president. "If we truly want to have an independent legal democratic Ukraine, then we should not do what we did in the last two years: We lost power and the governance of the state, and no one knows who is responsible for what." Vitaliy Masol declined to assess the actions of the government, led by Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, observing that "the newspapers publish everything anyway."

Vitaliy Masol maintained that he will not be taking part in the 14 June discussion of the report by Yukhym Zvyahilskyy on the government's activity for moral and

ethical reasons, because he does not want to repeat the mistaken practice of those who, while approaching power, criticized their predecessors. With regard to an action program, he observed that it is the affair of the government as a whole, and it will have to be elaborated together, and not with one person governing, "as happens now."

"In the event that I am elected, I will rely above all on balance and predictions, as is the practice throughout the world. The government must know how much breadgrain it has and whether it will be able to feed its people. Those who are against a planned economy have evidently never worked in such a system. I have devoted many years to this and know that there really is much in it which is not required, and if I were asked to head the state planning now, I would not agree to do it," Vitaliy Masol said.

In answer to a question about whether he would include in his team any of those whose candidacies for this post have recently been discussed, Vitaliy Masol replied that it is possible, and maybe even more than one of them, but he maintained that above all this would proceed from the point of view of their professionalism, experience, and understanding of the situation. He also expressed the conviction that young people should enter the government.

Plyushch Outlines Election Platform

AU1406155394 Kiev UKRAYINSKA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 12 (54) 9-22 Jun 94 p 1

[Statement by Ivan Plyushch, Ukraine's people's deputy and presidential candidate: "My Program as Ukrainian President"]

[Text] After an objective assessment of the situation that has taken shape in our state's political, economic, and social spheres, I am deeply convinced that Ukraine has every possibility to stabilize the situation in the near future and gradually raise the standard of living to a level worthy of man.

My experience that I gained in life, work, and politics and my professional knowledge enable me to determine those priorities which are essential for overcoming the difficulties and crisis phenomena that have befallen us during this difficult transitional period and, finally, change the situation for the better and inspire people with hope and confidence in the future.

The first and main priority from which I will proceed concerns the needs and interests of the independent state and of the people, as well as interests of the individual.

Strategic and Tactical Trends in My Program

In the Economic Sphere

1. Economic Reforms—only for the benefit of the people and not at the people's expense. I will not be guided by utopian programs, but by absolutely specific matters:

—Reform in the banking, finance, and taxation systems;

—The creation of reliable guarantees for a free development of civilized entrepreneurship;

—Struggle against price-fixing extortion and inflation;

—Balancing of prices and incomes.

2. An improvement of the course of economic reforms in such a way as to make it possible to put an end to the vulgar enrichment of some individuals at the expense of the impoverishment of the majority of people.

3. Ukraine's economic revival—The building of a strong, efficient, and socially-oriented economy by way of its restructuring and implementation of up-to-date technologies.

4. Fair privatization by the people and the creation of reasonably equal starting conditions for every person participating in the privatization and the provision of equality of all forms of ownership and economic activity, so that every person would feel himself as a master of the means of production and of the results of his labor.

5. Comprehensive development of the agro-industrial complex, state support for both collective and individual farms, repayment of debts to peasants, and the establishment of a stable parity of prices of agricultural and industrial products.

In the Social Sphere

1. Promotion of the spiritual revival of the Ukrainian people, the development of culture and language, the strengthening of the material and technological base of national education, of communal services, physical culture and sports; recognition of the role of religion in the rebirth of society; the maintenance of conditions for the development of fundamental science.

2. Consistent adherence in Ukraine to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as of other legal acts that guarantee free and comprehensive development of the individual and his reliable social protection.

3. Gradual improvement of peoples' standard of living based on an increase in the remuneration for labor worthy of the working people and a reduction of prices of goods. The latter may be achieved with the help of reducing taxes, price additions for intermediate trade, and production expenses.

4. Avoidance of mass unemployment, creation of the system of guaranteed protection for the low-income strata of the population—war and labor veterans, pensioners, families with many children, handicapped people, single elderly people, students, and also those who have remained without a breadwinner; establishment of pensions and scholarships that would not be lower than the living wage.

5. True compensation for the population's savings, lost as a result of inflation, at the level of the purchasing power which prevailed in 1990.

6. An increase in the production of goods for children and a better care about women, young families, and young people.

7. Creation of healthy conditions of life, provision of a clean environment, the development of forestry, national parks, and ecological preserves.

8. Ecologically-oriented approach to the planning and building of towns, villages, and settlements; curtailment of the building of new and reconstruction of existing atomic plants and hazardous industries, introduction of ecologically friendly and waste-free technologies; particular attention to the improvement of the ecological situation in those areas that have been affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe.

In the Sphere of State Building

1. Building of a humane and democratic civil society, achievement of well-being and spiritual freedom for the people; establishment of Ukraine's true state-political and economic sovereignty.

2. Adoption of a new Ukrainian Constitution with a distinct statement of the principle of the division of powers and the most suitable mechanisms for interaction among legislative, executive, and judicial power for building a law-governed state having the following main characteristics:

—Recognition of the Ukrainian people as the only source of power and of the individual, his life, rights, and freedoms—as the greatest values;

—Cultural, linguistic, and religious uniqueness of the people of all nationalities residing in Ukraine.

3. Elaboration, taking into account the national characteristics and experience of advanced democratic countries, of such a legislation as would promote the formation of a territorial structure capable of harmoniously combining general state, regional, and local interests.

4. Improvement of the representative power bodies in the form of councils as organs of people's power and their reform based on the principles of local government and creation of a necessary legal and financial and economic foundation for their activity.

5. Maintenance of civic peace and harmony in Ukraine, strengthening of law and order, intensification of the struggle against organized crime and corruption, and a reliable protection of human honor, dignity, life, and health.

6. Building of Ukraine's Armed Forces and constant concern about the well-being of servicemen and their families.

In External Policy

1. Extensive economic integration of Ukraine's national economic complex, first and foremost with CIS countries and also with other states, gradual merging into the European and world economic community, and the creation of a corresponding legal base and practical conditions for that.

2. Strengthening of Ukraine's international prestige as a great peace-loving and civilized European power, preservation of its territorial integrity and inviolability of its borders.

3. Preservation of peace, prevention of armed conflicts, no matter where they might flare up, and establishment of Ukraine's status as a peace-loving, nonaligned, and nonnuclear power.

I will do everything in order that our young independent state could occupy a worthy position among advanced European and world countries as soon as possible.

Masol Running for Premiership To Reverse Economic Policy

LD1406140994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Candidate for the post of Ukraine's prime minister, people's deputy Vitaliy Masol, said in an exclusive interview for UNIAN during a break in the session that he was doubtful as to his own need to accept the possible appointment. "It would not add to the image, and in a while there will be a lot of ruckus and I will be blamed for all sins." Masol believes economic management over the past two years has led to a great many irreparable losses. He stressed that his only motive was "being unable to remain on the sidelines after the Kuchma government has made, alas, so many ill-considered moves." Masol said he had seen the report by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, who will present his proposals on overcoming Ukraine's economic crisis at the parliament session on 15 June. He denied having drawn up Moroz's "main guidelines" himself, but said that a lot of it had been borrowed by the speaker from Masol's own book.

Lanovyy Criticizes Kravchuk, Government's Economic Efforts

WS1406140894 Kiev VYBIR in Russian 1450 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Interview with presidential candidate Volodymyr Lanovyy by Aleksandr Kabanov; place and date not given: "Volodymyr Lanovyy: 'When There Is No Responsibility, There Is No Democracy Either...'"; from the "Current Interview" feature]

[Text] [Kabanov] How do you envision the mechanism for people's deputies' responsibility before their voters?

[Lanovyy] No such strict mechanism exists in Ukraine, and this means, no matter how sad it seems to be, that there is no democracy. In the United States, for example, there are 18 levels of state officials' responsibility for various crimes and misdemeanors. Have you ever seen a report by our finance minister on his work performed over the last six months? Under current political and economic circumstances, he simply must regularly explain how much of the state money is spent and for what. He must provide reports every month, and he must bear the responsibility for money resources working for nationwide interests, not for the interests of certain social groups.

[Kabanov] How do you assess your chances for victory in the upcoming elections?

[Lanovyy] I would like to appeal to the people: Look who has been leading you, and what these activists have achieved? Do you trust current President Leonid Kravchuk, former Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, or former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma? They had, in my opinion, every opportunity to introduce positive reforms.

I worked with them pursuing one goal—to reform the Ukrainian economy as quickly as possible—but apparently, I worked too fast—I stepped on the throat of their personal desires and aspirations. As you recall, I was removed...

[Kabanov] In your opinion, are any of the other candidates for the presidential chair in a better situation than Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz regarding propagandizing populist ideas?

[Lanovyy] As a matter of fact, having become speaker, Oleksandr Moroz is in the most convenient situation, even compared with the current president. He now has the rostrum, the microphone, and television—all means to influence a sufficient number of voters.

[Kabanov] What is your opinion on the Crimean issue?

[Lanovyy] In terms of strategy, the Crimea must remain within Ukraine. They want to separate? They want to obtain the status of an independent state? This will not take place. Let them take advantage of any liberties, but the Crimean parliament must work in accordance with the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions. I am for a peaceful resolution to this issue, by means of agreement.

[Kabanov] How do you assess the activities of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self Defense [UNA-UNSO]?

[Lanovyy] When I was reading UNA-UNSO documents, the position presented in them seemed very attractive to me. Although I accept the actions of UNSO units in Georgia, similar actions should be planned at the state level without amateurishness. I respect both left- and right-wing forces for their confidence and willingness to act. Yet, it would be better if these forces agreed on one point—on the need to work for the future and real reforms in our state. UNA-UNSO, as well as other public and political organizations, has the right to exist within the framework of the law. However, I do not support the methods, with the help of which the aforementioned organizations have been looking for self-affirmation.

[Kabanov] Who should have the initiative in all transformations within society, the president or the parliament?

[Lanovyy] The presidential authority has great powers in Ukraine. The president can make legislative decisions, he can even change the system of local administration. The parliament is waiting for the president's initiation, his program for socioeconomic reforms, outline of strategy for joint actions, and consolidation of all forces and means to resolve nationwide problems. The current president does not have any initiative. Here is a recent example: Kravchuk has recently stated that we do not have a law on presidency, and it therefore makes no sense to hold presidential elections. But why do we not have such a law? Who, if not Leonid Makarovych [Kravchuk] himself, should display initiative in the adoption of such a law?

[Kabanov] How do you assess the current economic situation?

[Lanovyy] Seventy percent of Ukrainian enterprises are currently standing idle. The government claims that there is stabilization. The rights to payments and credits have been restricted. This is why there is no money for trade. Nobody buys anything. Real stabilization of prices is maintained by balancing supply and demand through either an increase in the volume of production (either domestic production, or imports), or structural redistribution (surplus production in one sector is compensated by selling the overstock abroad and importing scarce products). In Ukraine, apparent stabilization has been achieved by the artificial damming of trade.

Someone once told me a very apropriate analogy: I want to pull you out of water because you are drowning. I throw a noose over your neck and pull. I will eventually pull you out of the water, but will this do you any good? Prices in Ukraine have been bridled in such a way that everybody will eventually die. Thus, all the talk about stabilization in groundless. As a matter of fact, another collapse and disorder is coming.

Work on Aircraft Carrier Halted After Russia Refuses Funds

WS1406142194 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0814 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 24, 6-12 June 94]

[Text] Despite its 67 percent completion, construction of the Varyag (Varangian) aircraft carrier was frozen since Russia, the former Soviet Navy's successor, refused to finance it.

The Nikolaev Navy yard, which started the ship's construction, is said to have suffered colossal losses involving the ship's maintenance (see UBN no. 1/1993).

The Ukrainian Government remains undecided on the construction completion issue.

The Varyag, which was designed to carry as many as 80 combat aircraft and thus could be employed for naval task force missions, is said to be too costly (about $1 billion) to make prospects of its marketing abroad bright.

The Ministry of Engineering, MIC [military-industrial complex] and conversion is reported as studying the Varyag's utilization.

However, the almost completed Ulyanov aircraft carrier, which was scrapped for metal, failed to find buyers. The Chernomorski Navy yard, which was given the right to sell the scrapped ship, is reported as engaged in negotiations with a West German firm to this effect.

The ill-fated Varyag's replica, the Russian Navy's only aircraft carrier, the Admiral of Fleet Kuznetsov, which belongs to Russia's Northern Fleet, was built by the Chernomorski Navy yard, too.

This class ships' precursors included the Moskva, Leningard air-capable cruisers and the Kiev aircraft carrier.

Ukrainian Navy Shipyard To Be Set Up in Odessa

LD1406161994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1520 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Odessa [no dateline as received]— Warships that have been mothballed here for two years will soon undergo repair at a specialized Ukrainian Navy shipyard, which is being set up in cooperation with Odessa enterprise No. 108 and other specialized enterprises, Ukraine's navy commander Vice-Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy told UNIAN on 14 June. He added that the Ukrainian Navy command had cancelled a contract with the commercial company FTF [as received] for the repair and replacement of equipment at the large assault-landing vessel "Ilya Azarov" and other ships.

"We are planning to use the renovated ships to improve the combat readiness of fleet units rather than for holiday cruises in the Mediterranean," Bezkorovaynyy said.

Association Urges Radetskyy's Ouster, Defy of Army Draft

WS1506094594 Lvov VYSOKYY ZAMOK in Ukrainian 9 Jun 94 p 3

[INTELEKT report: "Invaders in Their Own Country?"]

[Text] An anti-Ukrainian coalition—Odessa's "Dostoyinstvo" [dignity] association—stormily and operatively reacts to developments in Ukraine. It specializes in publishing and disseminating leaflets. The first appeared immediately after the well-known conflict between Ukrainian and Russian Navy men near Odessa. In this leaflet, Ukrainian servicemen are termed invaders. Another one came soon after the televised speech by Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy regarding the situation in the Crimea. Apparently, the general wants to "throw us into the meat grinder of civil war." Therefore, the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the president should immediately remove him from the post of defense minister. The key expression in the leaflet is even more radical: "Dostoyinstvo" calls on Odessa residents to defy the next draft of young people into the Ukrainian Army, which is, obviously, an open violation of Ukrainian legislation.

The association is headed by Oleksandr Shteyman, recent candidate for Ukrainian people's deputy, whose real name became known to Odessa residents during the electoral campaign. Before that, he had been Kamenskiy for some reason.

The leaflet does not suggest under which army banners the Odessa youth should fight. Nor does it explain why the Ukrainian Army is considered invasive on Ukrainian territory.

Belarus

Diplomatic Relations Established With FRY

LD1406162394 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 1448 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus has passed a resolution on establishing diplomatic relations between Belarus and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY]. [passage omitted]

Hryb Praises CIS, Money Merger at News Conference

WS1506074394 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 11-13 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Aleh Hrusdzilovich on a news conference by Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb; place and date not given: "The CIS Has Prospects. Stanislaw Bahdankevich Does Not Violate Laws"]

[Text] CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya and Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb, who returned from St. Petersburg, where they participated in the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, organized a news conference for journalists.

Myacheslaw Hryb opened the press conference with a joke saying that the journalists were so occupied with the presidential race that they almost forgot about the Supreme Soviet chairman. Myacheslaw Hryb assessed the agreements signed in St. Petersburg and answered a range of questions. The Supreme Soviet chairman was convinced that interest in him and his personal opinions on some pressing issues of our life did not decrease. We paid attention to five key questions which Myacheslaw Hryb had to answer: on CIS prospects, on the initiative—regarding the creation of the Eurasian union—of the Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev, on unexpected changes in prices for bread, and on National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich's recent moves.

"Our St. Petersburg meeting was very fruitful. In my opinion, work aimed at strengthening the CIS has sense, and the CIS has prospects," is how Supreme Soviet chairman answered the first question. Following are his words regarding Nazarbayev's initiative: "The president of Kazakhstan proposes two versions of the so-called Eurasian union—mild and tough—with which we should acquaint our society. What I like in this proposal is that it plans to set a union of states with equal rights. Under these conditions, the obligations of the allies would be more specified because the union does not foresee associate membership. In my opinion, this proposal does not run counter to the CIS. However, I would like to emphasize that the attitude of the CIS leaders toward this initiative is different.

"I think that we should not change the text of the Constitution," stated Myacheslaw Hryb regarding the monetary merger. He confirmed his earlier position which is that the state requires a tough Constitution because only such a constitution can be respected. Myacheslaw Hryb said that when he spoke earlier with president Yeltsin, they agreed that the fifth, and, probably, the eighth clauses of the agreement could be redrafted. However, the text of the agreement was submitted to Deputy Prime Minister Shokhin and work halted for a while.

As for the unexpected changes in prices for bread and some other foodstuffs, Myacheslaw Hryb said: "The government adopted this decision when I was in St. Petersburg. My personal opinion is that currently we cannot do without state management of the economy. The majority of enterprises are state-owned but the state cannot even affect the prices for products of these enterprises."

"We exercised juridical expertise regarding recent decisions adopted by the National Bank. It confirmed that everything was done within the limits of competence," said the Supreme Soviet chairman in reply to the last question. "As for Stanislaw Bahdankevich who adopted presidential candidate Stanislaw Shushkevich's proposal to head his 'shadow' cabinet, this is his personal affair. By the way, former Interior Minister Yladzimir Yahoraw also joined the Shushkevich team and became his campaign manager. Well, this is their personal position."

National Bank Chairman Queried on Priorities

WS1506082594 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Statements by Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Antonavich Bahdankevich in response to questions submitted by NARODNAYA GAZETA readers; place and date not given: "I Am Ready To Cooperate With any Movements and Parties That Will Be Able To Implement the Program of Economic Reforms"]

[Excerpts] [A. V. Potyko] You travel abroad often, and I believe, not as tourist. Did you acquire any experience during your travels which could be of use for our Republic? What is your attitude toward IMF activities and its proposals regarding the resolution of our financial problems?

[Bahdankevich] I have often been abroad as Belarusian representative to the IMF and the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development [as published]. The IMF allots a considerable degree of technical aid to the Republic. It aids our banking system, primarily by teaching the basics of market economy to our personnel. As for the European Bank, our relations are most productive. This bank has already issued four lines of credit on very favorable conditions for us. We are conducting negotiations on some 20 investment projects and we

have principally agreed on opening a credit line for small and medium-sized businesses.

[Samusev] It seems to me that the independence of the National Bank cannot be compared to that of any central bank in Europe. Your bank is forced to execute such measures which lead to increases in inflation and other negative consequences. Should you not reconsider the status of our National Bank?

[Bahdankevich] Not only the Belarusian National Bank but also other central banks are experiencing certain pressure from both their governments and national business circles in terms of issuing loans.

In our state, increases in inflation are primarily explained not by the issuing of credits but rather by a lack of market levers regulating the economy under situations whereby the state has refused to directly manage it. Of course, the independence of the National Bank should be encouraged. However, the key point is not in the juridical independence of the bank but in the stalling of reforms. [passage omitted]

[Zhuk] Kebich blames the nonimplementation of the monetary union with Russia on Bahdankevich. Who is correct?

[Bahdankevich] The National Bank has never opposed the preservation and strengthening of economic integration with the Russian Federation. We favor such a union, which is based on equal rights and does not destroy our independence. We do not agree that a foreign state—even a friendly one—should begin to formulate our economic policy. We oppose the transfer of the National Bank—with its assets and liabilities—to the ownership of another state; the approval of the Belarusian budget and the amount of its deficit by the Russian Duma; the recalculation of our banks' and enterprises' funds on the basis of an unprofitable-for-us exchange rate. [passage omitted]

[Nalivayko] What about the unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems? Proceeding from the words of our prime minister, I can understand that if not today, then, at least, tomorrow, the Russian ruble will become our legal currency. However, you told NARODNAYA GAZETA that there is virtually no agreement at all. I trust more in your professionalism. The second question is whether Russia has set similar—with its domestic market—prices for energy resources for Belarus?

[Bahdankevich] Many factories and businesses in Belarus can work normally only when they have foreign markets for raw materials and can sell their products overseas—primarily, in Russia and Ukraine. The preservation and extension of markets is always a positive rather than a negative factor. We kept this in mind when we planned to establish an equal banking union between two sovereign states based on a common currency. However, I think that the monetary merger—one based on conditions which violate our Constitution and contradict our economic and political interests—should not be implemented. Instead of the monetary merger, it is possible to sign an agreement on bilateral payments with Russia. I would like to emphasize that in early June, the Russian side sent an official proposal and a draft agreement—regarding measures to provide for the mutual convertibility of our national currencies aimed at establishing a monetary union based on their national currencies—to V. F. Kebich. This testifies to the fact that the Russian Government also has no illusions as far as the monetary merger—based on inadmissible and contradictory conditions for the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus—is concerned.

The Russian side has not even lifted customs duties and taxes, while we lifted them back in April. All the statements made by our government do not correspond to reality, to say the least. The Russian Government has already drawn up a draft agreement regarding customs duties and taxes. Proceeding from this document, these duties and taxes will be lifted beginning on the day it is signed. I believe that this agreement will be signed in the next few weeks. At the moment, our Republic is experiencing huge losses.

[Lisitskiy] I think that it is the Cabinet of Ministers, headed by Kebich, which has ruined our economy. However, Kebich blames the National Bank for this. What is wrong with your bank?

[Bahdankevich] The National Bank opposes injections of "noncovered" money into our economy. This leads to increases in inflation and prices, to decreases in the exchange rate of our ruble. To cover the money, the government should pursue a rational price policy. Currently, one liter of milk in a shop costs 180 rubles [R] while it costs R1,860 to produce. This difference is covered from the state budget. This money is mine and yours. We believe that the government should issue subsidies not to producers, but to consumers to enable them to buy milk or bread. It is the price that makes the economy function. This is the key contradiction between the National Bank and the government, which wishes—how can I put this—to lay the blame on someone else. [passage omitted]

[Samalyuk] Would the economic situation in Belarus become stable if a national currency were introduced? Who has a real chance of becoming president of Belarus?

[Bahdankevich] Currently, I would not make any recommendations as to changes in the National Bank payment notes for a national currency. To stabilize the economy, it is necessary to promptly reconstruct it. This means, first of all, setting conditions for competition, capital investment, cutting the budget deficit and number of uncovered loans. In my opinion, a decrease in the inflation rate and stabilization of the economy—merely on the basis of a tough monetary policy along with the introduction of a national currency—are impossible.

I hold out hope that the Belarusian people did not lose their common sense. They will elect a president who will attract the best creative forces to the leadership of the state and will count not on Western or Eastern tips, but on the diligence and creative potential of its own people. [passage omitted]

[Petrov] Kebich met with intelligentsia in Nesvizh. He spoke unfavorably of the "chief banker." Why? Is this because Bahdankevich does not want to issue loans to the agricultural sector or because he opposes the monetary merger with Russia in the form the prime minister signed it? Kebich said if the National Bank does not issue a loan to the government, the government will then take credits in dollars from abroad and give them to agricultural workers. Who will pay back those dollars? Kebich or the people? Why were two people—one from the Supreme Soviet and another from the Cabinet of Ministers—included on the National Bank board? Does this mean that Bahdankevich has to resign?

[Bahdankevich] Mildly speaking, Mr. Kebich lied in Nesvizh. This year, the National Bank did not grant credits to businesses or the government at a 210-percent, or even higher, interest rate. We earmarked R1 trillion in credits—with a yearly interest rate of 6.5 percent—for the sowing campaign through the budget. In addition, we extended credits for advance payments for state procurement of agricultural products with a yearly interest rate of 20 percent, for investments—60 percent; for production requirements—100 percent.

As for the refusal to grant regular credits to the agricultural sector, the truth is that our Republic has created conditions for setting a constant breakaway gap between procurement prices for agricultural products and prices on industrial products for the agricultural sector. The more milk, grain, or meat a kolkhoz or sovkhoz produces, the more unprofitable it is. By not restricting prices on industrial products for the agricultural sector and simultaneously restricting procurement prices—given the lack of funds to cover the breakaway gap in prices—we push agricultural producers toward bankruptcy. The government sees salvation if the National Bank issues free and blank credits. However, this is the path to nowhere—to a dead end.

The National Bank has repeatedly recommended that the government cover the carrying costs by setting prices and issuing credits to agricultural businesses only for seasonal work and stock provisions. This year, 97.2 percent of National Bank assets were injected into the agricultural-industrial complex [APK]. We expected the government to at least adopt the necessary measures. However, it has done nothing.

Any nonexperts—industrial or agricultural sector workers—realize that in addition to the APK, industry, transport, trade, and other sectors of economy also require state credits. A continuous imbalance in supporting only one sector will only intensify our problems. Prime Minister Kebich should render support to the agricultural sector, however, he should not do this by means of such highly unprofessional moves.

As for the introduction of the Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers' representatives in our bank, this was done according to changes introduced to the Law on the National Bank. I am not going to resign in the immediate future. Not because I care for the chair and a high salary. Were I a chairman of a commercial bank, my salary would have been at least twice as high as my actual salary from the state. [passage omitted]

[Tolkachev] How much time, do you think, will be required to stabilize the economy once the economic reforms are implemented? What will cover and support the national currency? Western credits or land mortgages? Anything else? How do you view Kebich's desire to join the Russian Federation?

[Bahdankevich] I believe that at least to minimally stabilize the economy—that is, to reduce the inflation rate to a level of less than 10 percent per month, to stabilize the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble—we require between six and eight months. After this issue is resolved, we will need between two and three years to profoundly reconstruct the economy, to stop the drop in production, and ensure a gradual increase in economic productivity.

As for the introduction of our national currency, the national wealth—at first, Belarus-produced products, goods and services, given the tough budget and credit policy—will guarantee its stability.

[Bahdankevich] I would not comment on Vyachaslaw Frantsevich's position, however, I do favor the preservation of Belarus' complete political sovereignty and close economic integration with the CIS states and our Western neighbors. [passage omitted].

[Bakun] Why did you, Stanislaw Antonavich, not clarify your position—regarding the union with Russia—earlier? Why only now? Also, I'd like to know which presidential candidate you will vote for?

[Bahdankevich] According to our verbal agreement with Chernomyrdin, it was decided that the final draft of the agreement could be changed after the consultations. However, you know that Russia did not accept any changes and even toughened its position. Therefore, I not only had to publicly express my opinion but to write a letter—which contained my principal disagreement with the merger on such conditions—to the Supreme Soviet.... I will vote for Stanislaw Shushkevich. [passage omitted]

[Kholod] Do you have a program regarding the stabilization of our "hare" outside of the ruble zone?

[Bahdankevich] Yes. We have recently discussed key trends in the money and credit policy for 1994. This program has already been adopted.

[Kholod] However, the government is pushing the Republic toward the money merger. At the same time, you have adopted a program of measures aimed at stabilizing the national currency outside the ruble zone. Why is there no single opinion on the issue?

[Bahdankevich] Currently, the agreement with Russia is virtually not effective. The expectation that it would begin functioning leads to big losses due to chaos in calculations. The point is that the Russian ruble was balanced and accounted on par with the Belarusian ruble. We virtually decreased our assets by 10 times.... [passage omitted]

[Burmako] What do you, an expert, think about the economic concept of the Belarusian Popular Front? Will you cooperate with them if they come to power?

[Bahdankevich] I am ready to cooperate with any parties and movements that will be able to implement a program of market reforms.

CIS Official in Minsk Comments on Eurasian Union

WS1506095994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 0700 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] A conference of heads of state structures, concerned with CIS matters in presidential and governmental apparatuses as well as in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense of CIS countries, is being held in Minsk. This is the first meeting at such a high level, organized for the purpose of working out the methods for improving CIS activities and the furthering integration of CIS countries.

The conference participants, in particular, considered the possibility of creating an economic union and a mechanism for implementing this union. They also discussed the proposal of Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev to create the Euroasiatic Union which, as specific to the CIS, would enable integration of the CIS countries into a closer economic and political union, that is, to perform those functions which formerly were attributed to the CIS. Commenting on this, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya told our correspondent that "the CIS, as an intergovernmental organization, could not prove its value. Initially, the CIS played a huge part in disuniting the single empire. A civilized "divorce" without blood and war has been accomplished, and this gives credit to the CIS and its bodies. However, many people, having felt that economically this leads to a deadlock, began discussing the need for a union on a new basis. In the first place—an economic union, in the second—possibly, a political or military union, or some other type of union. The point is whether the current politicians and all of us are able to realize that we need to live together on one-sixth of the dry land. Regarding Nazarbayev's initiative—the creation of closer integration with the CIS through a creation of supranational structures—many people doubt whether state heads will concede to it. At least, in the near future. Regarding the reasons why many agreements within the CIS framework do not work or work rather feebly, they are of an objective nature: First, every country lives according to its own laws. Second, many agreements have been signed only by some CIS members. Finally, third, there are difficulties with the ratification of adopted documents by the parliaments of CIS countries. Not to mention other reasons, even Russia has not yet ratified the agreement on the economic union; this agreement is currently being discussed by the Federation Council and the Duma, and there is no single opinion on this issue."

District Election Officials Meet in Vileyka Rayon

WS1506105794 Minsk RID in Russian 0935 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Chairmen of village soviets and district election commissions have held a conference at the Vileyka Rayon Executive Committee. The conference was also attended by Colonel G. Lisovskiy, military commissar of the Vileyka military registration and enlistment office.

According to Vladimir Alfer, chairman of the Vileyka rayon organization of the United Democratic Party of Belarus and campaign manager for Shushkevich, the military commissar began his address with a proposal to distribute submachine guns among the chairmen of district election commissions and to either keep election observers from political parties at gunpoint or drive them out and prevent them from meddling. Mr. Lisovskiy next stated that before 22 June all chairmen of village soviets are obliged to organize meetings of participants in the Great Patriotic War, during which he will present medals and money, as well as congratulations from Kebich on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus. Responding to a remark from chairmen of village soviets, which proposed to attach this event to the celebration of the Republic's liberation, the military commissar stated that he has received an appropriate order in this regard from Defense Minister Kazlowski.

Candidate Pozniak Seeks Strong Statehood

LD1406161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Popular Front leader, presidential candidate Zenon Pozniak believes that entire Belarus should be a free economic and banking zone. He hopes this would make his country a more attractive place for economic activity and create additional incentives for foreign banks and investment companies.

Pozniak's election platform says crucial to the success of economic reform would be all the makings of statehood—borders, customs, national currency, banking system, bank of emission and the leverage to protect state sovereignty.

In the state sector the opposition presidential candidate suggests dividing the functions of power and property. Power will be vested with share-holders, holding companies and concerns, while property management will be handed over to the Property Management Ministry.

Pozniak believers that the share of military spending must be no bigger than 6 percent of the GDP.

New budget policies proposed by the Popular Front leader imply forming the budget from below—from the level of local self-government, a stop to subsidizing producers, slashed spending on the state apparatus, appropriate financing of the law-enforcement, defence, the health service and the program to eliminate the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster.

Pozniak believes that order in the economy would help quick transition to free trade in all goods and resources, which is to economic reform. Without making enterprises fully independent economically privatization, defence conversion or a social safety net for the population would be impossible.

In order to consolidate the national currency, whose functions will be performed at the first stage by a settlement bill of the National Bank the opposition presidential candidate suggests shifting all businesses to commercial operation, introducing a law on bankruptcies and another one on the state debt and procedures of forming and paying it, and enforcing anti-trust policies.

Pozniak says that the privatization of land is not the end but a means to enhance the effectiveness of the economy.

If elected president Pozniak promises to promptly set up rural mortgage banks to credit farm producers, build homes and social facilities.

In foreign economic policy Pozniak sees as a priority the development of partnership with neighboring countries and steps to conclude agreements with them on free trade, on customs and currency unions and, in the long run, a common market. He believes that monopoly in foreign trade must be abolished.

Pozniak blames the current economic crisis heavily on the government's strong reluctance to conduct an independent economic policy and the lack of political will in parliament to map out the way of the country's development.

In case of Pozniak's election victory a future Cabinet will be led by the leader of the Popular Accord Party Gennadiy Karpenko, Popular Front coordinator Pozniak's election campaign manager Sergey Naumchik. IF Note: Earlier Gennadiy Karpenko himself was a presidential candidate, however his team failed to raise 100 thousand signatures in his support necessary for official registration at the central electoral committee. Under Belarusian [Belarusian] legislation registration requires presenting to the central electoral commission the signatures of no less than 70 members of parliament. At first Karpenko was supported by 78 members of parliament, however, eleven of them—the supporters of the Social Democrats—changed their mind later. Karpenko withdrew from the election race without waiting for the central electoral committee's decision whether the lawmakers had the right to take their signatures back.

PF coordinator described Karpenko's agreement to conclude a political alliance with Pozniak as another step towards the unification of right-wing forces. Naumchik said that Pozniak would benefit from the alliance with Karpenko at least because the Popular Accord Party leader has important political connections in Russia and enjoys certain credibility with influential Russian statesmen.

PF coordinator has told IF that Pozniak's alliance with the right-wing presidential candidate, ex-parliamentary speaker Stanislav Shushkevich would be impossible. Estrangement between the two will mount as the election race picks up pace, he said.

The coordinating committee of the Popular Movement of Belarus (PFB) has decided to support the current Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich as the common candidate of the left-center alliance in the 23 June presidential election. IF Note: PMB unites 30 left-wing and centrist parties and non-governmental organizations, such as the Communists, the Liberal Democrats, the Slavyanskiy Sobor (Slav Assembly) party, the Officers' Union and the republican organization of veterans. Analysts say that the movement have local offices in all districts and regions and is a major political force.

Apart from V. Kebich, Z. Pozniak and S. Shushkevich the Belarusian presidency is contested by three other candidates—the Agrarian Party leader Aleksandr Dubko, Communist Party Secretary Vasiliy Novikov and people's deputy Aleksandr Lukashenko. The latter is faced with the risk of being excluded from the race for abusing the election law. IF Note: According to reliable sources a truck carrying 20,000 color photographs of Lukashenko and leaflets calling to vote for him was detained on the Latvian border on 10 June. The accompanying documents said the printed matter came from Hanover, Germany. The Belarusian election law prohibits any direct or indirect participation of foreign organizations or nationals in financing the campaigns of presidential candidates or giving them any other assistance. The central electoral commission is empowered to cancel the registration of those presidential candidates who prove responsible for violating this rule.

Although under the accompanying papers the cost of the cargo is estimated at 9 million Belarusian rubles, experts say that the real cost is more than 100 million. According the papers the customer paid the contractor in D-marks.

Interviewed by IF the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Abramovich has said that the commission was not empowered to decide whether Lukashenko should be banned from the race until law-enforcement agencies officially proved Lukashenko's complicity.

In the meantime reports from Minsk say that although the cargo was arrested, posters identical to those detained on the border appeared on the walls in the city center. Law enforcement agencies believe that similar cargoes arrived in Belarus earlier.

Polish Defense Officials Discuss Scientific Research

WS1306123494 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 8 Jun 94 p 5

[Report attributed to the Belarusian Defense Ministry press center]

[Text] As part of a military and technical cooperation plan for the Defense Ministries of Belarus and Poland, a delegation from the Management and Development Administration of the Polish Defense Ministry, headed by its deputy chief Jan Fedoruski, has paid a visit to Minsk.

During negotiations with Colonel Vasiliy Fugachev, chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee at the Belarusian Defense Ministry, problems related to prospective technical equipment for both states' Armed Forces were discussed. The sides conveyed their experiences in developing military science and examined issues concerning joint scientific research and design projects.

The Polish military delegation visited the Belarusian Optical Amalgamation, the Means of Automation Scientific Research Institute, and the Minsk Tractor Plant.

Moldova

Spokesman Denies Dniester Accusations Against Snegur

AU1406154994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2244 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS 10/6/1994—Today, the presidential spokesman made a statement saying that the recent [8 June] declarations by the president and government of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic are biased presentations of the reality, states a presidential press service communique. Previously, the Dniester officials denounced Chisinau for jeopardizing the negotiations with Tiraspol. According to the spokesman, on 28 April, soon after the joint [Moldovan-Dniester] declaration, the Moldovan president formed a group of experts to design the draft law on a special juridical status for the Dniester region. The Dniester party did not create a similar group, as was agreed. An agreement stipulating the reparations of the two bridges across the Dniester was signed. Following this agreement, the Ministry of Transportation three weeks ago signed a contract with an Odessa company to repair the bridges. The Dniester party does not carry out its obligations, said the spokesman. He also said that a branch of the Moldovan National Bank was opened in Tiraspol and that Dniester companies are opening accounts in lei at the authorized banks. According to an agreement signed by the State Administration of Civil Aviation and the parallel Tiraspol department, actions are undertaken to satisfy the passengers. President Snegur is permanently informed of the undertakings and told the experts' group head, Nicolae Osmochescu, to inform Richard Samuel, head of the CSCE permanent mission to Moldova, and Vladlen Vasev, representative of Russian president. The presidential spokesman stated that "Mircea Snegur appreciates at its real value the document signed on 28 April and expresses once more his hope that the Dniester party will prefer to act and not merely talk in order to establish the peace and understanding unanimously longed for by the people of entire Moldova."

Dniester Republic Makes Statement on Moldova Negotiations

LD1406133194 Tiraspol Dniester Radio in English 2030 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Tiraspol—The press service of the president and the Government of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye made a statement concerning the negotiating process with Moldova on the political status for Pridnestrovye. For the first time, as Mr. Smirnov, the president of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye, stressed, we saw a sincere desire of the Republic [of] Moldova to settle long existing problems.

Apart from the main document, some other agreements were signed. The agreement between the National Bank of Moldova and the central bank of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye, the protocol of intentions on the social order, fighting against crime and other documents. The sides, in particular, decided to start the negotiating process without delay and preliminary conditions on all the questions the sides are interested in, to remove all the obstacles that block normal economical, social and cultural relations, provide to [as heard] their restoration and development, normalize business, trade, and financial relations for mutual benefit in interest of the entire population.

The sides came to the conclusion that it was necessary to determine the political and legal status of Pridnestrovye—a step by step program of creating and carrying on political and legal relations on division of powers between [the] sides and a transitional period for realization of mutual agreements on every concrete direction of activity. Finally, on the necessity of creation of the system with mutual guarantees, including international ones in order to fulfill the reached agreements completely and unconditionally. [sentence as heard]

More than a month has passed. However, attempts of the leadership of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye to speed up the (?status) activity, face once again a (?solid) blockade which we know pretty well. The president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, actually evades further development of the negotiating process, specifying no reasons of such a behavior to the leadership of Pridnestrovye.

Relations between Abkhazia and Georgia, other hot regions, have now more and more good prospects on the way proposed and adopted by Russia. Agreements signed by Russia and Tatarstan may also be a kind of pattern for further work. It is being proposed to borrow from the experience of relations between Crimea and Ukraine. However, they reject the accumulated experience in reference to our region. Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovye are being frozen artificially again.

The position of the leadership of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye remains the same. Only peaceful and negotiating activity can settle all the problems. Besides, we don't see any reasons for the artificial delay of the settlement of vital problems and coordinating the determination of the status for Pridnestrovye with the problems of Gagauzia. Expressing his concern about the nonfulfillment of the signed statement and the number of documents, the president of the Moldavian Republic of Pridnestrovye, Igor Smirnov, addressed Russia's resident plenipotentiary envoy to Pridnestrovye, (Vasiv), with the request to use all his influence on the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, in order to speed up the negotiating process and the realization of the signed document.

Snegur Denies Stalling Dniester Talks

LD1406104094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] President Mircea Snegur today denied an allegation by Tiraspol authorities that the Moldovan leadership is blocking the continuation of talks started under Russian and CSCE mediation on the peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict.

As already reported, Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dniester region, accused Chisinau last week of silently blocking the dialogue to settle the crisis. He appealed to Vladlen Vlasov, the Russian president's special envoy at the talks, requesting that the latter use his influence over Snegur who, in Tiraspol's view, is avoiding talks.

A statement issued today by an official representative of the president of Moldova says that the Republic's leadership has set up a group of experts to draft a bill on the special juridical status of the region on the left bank of the Dniester River. It has been ready to begin work for a long time, but Tiraspol is delaying setting up a similar group for joint work on the bill, as agreed during the meeting held at the end of April between the leaders of Moldova and the Dniester region.

Border Traffic Negotiations Held With Romania

AU1406135494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2244 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS 10/6/1994—Yesterday, a new round of negotiations between the Moldovan and Romanian Ministries of Foreign Affairs on facilitating the traffic of passengers and goods was held in Galati [Romania], states a communique issued today by the two ministries. According to the communique, "the delegations emphasized that their governments had decided to implement the provisions of the Governmental Agreement signed on 21 August 1992, according to which the entrance and exit through all border crossing points for international traffic or small traveler's traffic will be permitted without restrictions on the basis of identification documents or other travel documents issued by recognized authorities of the two states." The consular offices in Leuseni-Albita and Ungheni-Ungheni will suspend their activity beginning 1 August 1994. The Moldovan delegation specified that the suspension of the consular offices will not affect the free traffic of Moldovan and Romanian citizens. "Responsible authorities agreed to cooperate to prevent illegal crossing of the Prut river by citizens of third countries, especially of those with high emigration trends," states the communique. It was decided that the deliveries of goods and humanitarian and cultural packages will have priority. It was also decided that beginning 15 July 1994, the Sculeni-Sculeni and Oancea- Cahul points will be used according to international regulations for travelers' traffic, and the Giurgiulesti-Galati point following international regulations for goods traffic. The Leuseni-Albita, Ungheni-Ungheni, Costesti-Stanca and Stoianovca-Falciu points will function according to the current program. It was decided that new passage points at Braniste-Stefanesti and Lipcani-Radauti Prut will be opened in the future, mentions the communique.

Chief Negotiator Views Moscow Talks on 14th Army Pullout

AU1406155094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2244 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/6/1994—The 9th round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations on the 14th Army's withdrawal from Moldova led the parties to agreement on all articles of the General Accord, except Article 2, told BASAPRESS Nicolae Osmochescu, Moldovan vice minister of foreign affairs and head of the Moldovan delegation to the negotiations. He pointed out that Article 2 deals with the term of the Russian troops' withdrawal and that the Moldovan delegation insisted on 31 December 1995 or January 1996 as the deadline for the withdrawal. "This is Moldova's official position based on the judgments of our experts," said Osmochescu. According to him, Russia insists on a period of three years, arguing that the withdrawal will have to take place through the territory of a third country. Some information media have reported that Moscow will demand four years for the withdrawal of its troops.

Osmochescu also mentioned that additional issues, such as the utilization of the Tiraspol airport and compensations for repatriating the Russian officers were discussed. The Moldovan delegation considers that these compensations can be covered from the money gained through the selling of the flats and houses freed by the Russian officers, and not from the budget. The Dniester Republic's representatives in the negotiations tried to claim their share of the 14th Army's property. These claims were not accepted either by the Moldovan or by the Russian delegations. The 10th round of negotiations will be held in Chisinau in July or August this year, said Osmochescu. Nicolae Turtureanu, the representative of the Moldovan Defense Ministry, did not take part in the negotiations. Concerning this, Osmochescu said that "it is not exceptional; a large part of the Moldovan delegation had to be renewed." The head of the military delegation was Vasile Grosu, head of the Artillery Direction of the Moldovan Defense Ministry.

Russian Army Commander Calls Tiraspol Leaders 'Swindlers'

AU1406160094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2244 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 10/6/1994—A meeting of the Union of Veterans of the Afghanistan War was held yesterday in Tiraspol. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Afghanistan war veterans' unions of Moldova, Ukraine, and Russia. The participants criticized the Tiraspol authorities for leaving the veterans and the families of Afghanistan war victims without social protection. Aleksandr Karaman, the vice president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic declared at the meeting that due to a very severe economic situation, when internal production has fallen by 26 percent, the leadership of Tiraspol is forced to make cuts in some social assistance programs. Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Russian Army [currently stationed in Dniester], who also took the floor, declared that the leadership of Dniester is made up of swindlers who pretend that certain social organizations, including the Union of Afghanistan War Veterans, are taking an active part in the political life—especially in the future elections to the leadership [sentence as received]. The meeting adopted a declaration which announces its intention to take part actively in the political life and future elections.

Opposition Party Protests Return to Totalitarian Methods

AU1406173194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2244 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 10/6/1994—"The exaggerated tendency of the governing party to control all spheres of activity reveals its aspiration to return to the period and standards when Article 6 of the Constitution (on the role of the Communist Party) was the foundation," states a declaration of the Council of the Democratic Labor Party of Moldova (PDMM), published today by the newspaper GLASUL NATIUNII (VOICE OF NATION.) According to the declaration, "the policy pursued in the spiritual sphere has become aggressive; a total reversal of what was achieved during 1992 and 1993 is taking place here." The massive firing of democratic journalists, the monopolization of television and radio, and the regulation of the official press proves that the media financed by the entire population is becoming a slave to the interests of a single party, states the declaration. The PDMM says that "the extension of the results of parliamentary elections over local administration bodies is a grave transgression of the Constitution. Through presidential decrees of Mircea Snegur, the results of the 1990 elections for local administrative bodies are practically annulled. The dismissal of some mayors and chairmen of district executive committees is an abuse of the authorities and a serious violation of the millions of voters' interests expressed in the elections that no one annulled." The PDMM considers that the results of the presidential elections of 1991 are put in question as the sole candidate, Mircea Snegur, did not represent any party. "The PDMM informs the CSCE representatives, the Council of Europe, foreign embassies, and all political movements in this country and abroad about the dangerous trends in the conduct of the current Moldovan leadership." The declaration also states that the party will "use in the future all legal means to prevent the real threat of restored totalitarianism and obscurantism in our country," concludes the declaration.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Issues Decrees Releasing 2 Ministers

LD1406151694 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] By the decree of the Kazakh president, Kadyr Baykenov was released from his post as minister, in connection with the abolition of the Power, Engineering, and Fuel Resources Ministry.

By the decree of the president, Igor Vadimovich Ulyanov was released from his post as minister, in connection with the abolition of the Communications Ministry.

President Issues Decree on Law, Order

LD1406191694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 14 Jun 94

["Decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on additional measures to ensure legality and law and order"—KAZTAG headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The low effectiveness of the measures being taken by bodies of state power and the administration to ensure legality and law and order on the territory of the Republic is creating serious obstacles to socioeconomic transformations and defense of the constitutional rights of citizens.

(?Especially) dangerous is the continuing growth in organized crime, corruption, embezzlement, and abuse by officials. Crimes committed with the use of firearms are spreading. There are considerable shortcomings in the organization of the work of law enforcement agencies.

With the aim of further strengthening legality, law and order, and discipline, and of ensuring the personal and property security of citizens, I decree:

1. To indicate to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan and to local representative and executive bodies the untimely and ineffective implementation of the requirements of the acts of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on matters of the fight against crime and defense of the constitutional rights of citizens. To oblige officials of the state administration bodies to take exhaustive measures to strengthen legality and law and order in the Republic. To warn heads of ministries, state committees, and departments and heads of local administrations about their personal responsibility for ensuring public order and the safe-keeping of state property.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to:

- Review the progress of carrying out the state program of priority measures in the fight against crime and strengthening law and order in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 1993-95 and take measures to invigorate the work being done. By 1 August 1994 present proposals on making amendments and additions to the above program;
- Draw up and by 1 September 1994 confirm government programs to fight drunkenness, alcoholism, and drug addiction [passage indistinct]
- Work out an effective mechanism for transferring to law enforcement agencies the transport and technical property seized and confiscated by court order, and also part of the compensation paid for criminal damage.

3. The Council for Combatting Crime of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to hear reports from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Press and Mass Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan on work in legal education and training of citizens, propaganda, and explanation of legislation and legal policy among the population and raising the role of the mass media in the business of instilling respect for the law.

4. The General Public Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry, the National Security Committee, and the Committee on State Finance Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan are to step up their work to control the following issues in order to expose and suppress abuses and other violations of legality:

- To observe the order for issuing licenses giving the right to export goods, products, and raw materials from the republic and implement the established rules on hard currency operations by export enterprises;
- To check the validity of state property sales during the process of privatization which is taking place; ensure that all the money is received into special accounts; and check that the conditions for sale, exchange, and granting for temporary use are correctly observed, and that state enterprises borrow their main funds correctly;
- To create various entrepreneurial structures under state enterprises, organizations, and establishments, and prevent any possible use of state money and resources for a wrong purpose;
- To ensure that the state hard currency funds aimed at restructuring and modernizing industry and purchasing a limited range [words indistinct] important goods is correctly spent;
- To ensure that state, joint-stock, and private banks observe legality and established economic norms during the giving of credits and loans, and in cash turnover, as well as in the use of state credit resources and the cash funds of legal entities.

5. The heads of the Republic's enterprises, organizations, and establishments are obliged to immediately consider and take measures in accord with presentations and directions of law enforcement agencies to eliminate any causes and conditions which could allow labor team

members to violate the law or make criminal encroachments on cash funds, goods, or material valuables, regardless of the type of ownership.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to submit for consideration by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan a draft law envisaging greater responsibility on the part of authorities for violations of this matter.

6. There will be an amnesty for those members of the population who voluntary surrender by 1 September 1994 any firearms, ammunition, or explosives they may be illegally possessing.

Citizens who voluntarily hand in weapons, ammunition, or explosives will not be subject to the penalties laid down by the law.

The full weight of the law will apply to those who do not comply with this.

The Justice Ministry, together with the General Public Prosecutor's Office and the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, shall submit for consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan a draft law to increase the penalties for carrying, keeping, purchasing, making, or selling weapons, ammunition, or explosives.

7. The General Public Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan, together with the Interior Ministry and the National Security Committee, should by 1 August 1994 examine the maintenance of standard issues, ammunition, and explosives in units and subdivisions subordinate to the Defense Ministry, the main directorate of the commander in chief of Interior Troops, the main directorate of the Border Troops, and the Republican Guard of Kazakhstan. The perpetrators should be made to answer for any violations that may be found.

8. The General Public Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry, the National Security Committee, the Justice Ministry, the main customs directorate, and the main taxation directorate of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan should carry out by 1 October 1994 an extraordinary appraisal of leaders of all ranks and dismiss those not appropriately fulfilling their obligations concerning the protection of the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, and the strengthening of law and order.

9. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the heads of local administrations, with the participation of the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, should set up a taxation militia in accordance with the temporary resolution endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Justice Ministry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with interested ministries and departments, should elaborate and submit for consideration to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft law on a taxation militia.

10. The Transport and Interior Ministries and the heads of local administrations should elaborate and implement a set of measures to enhance public order and ensure the safety of passengers and cargo hauled by road, rail and air.

11. The Ministry for Youth Affairs, Tourism, and Sport, the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, together with other interested ministries and departments, should elaborate and submit by 1 September for examination by the Cabinet of Ministers a program of actions for state power bodies and the directorate for the prevention of juvenile crime, and proposals for appropriate changes and additions to the Law on State Youth Policy of the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic—as received].

12. The State Property Committee, the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Tourism, and Sport, and the heads of oblast, Almaty, and Leninsk city administrations should by 1 September 1994 investigate the legality and validity of use of places of sport and entertainment, and out-of-school activity clubs. They should take appropriate measures if such places are being used in a manner not befitting their purpose.

13. In conformity with the requirements of this resolution, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan should speedily prepare draft laws foreseeing changes and amendments to the current laws.

14. Resolution N1004 of the President of Kazakhstan of 4 December 1992 increasing the responsibility of officials and state power organs for the state of discipline, public order, and safety, and Resolution N1562 of the President of Kazakhstan of 11 February 1994 intensifying the battle against crime should be regarded as no longer valid.

[signed] President of Kazakhstan [Nursultan] Nazarbayev.
[dated] Almaty, 9 June 1994.

Sultanov Receives SRV Premier, Iranian Official

LD1406202494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Today Kuanysh Sultanov [deputy prime minister] received Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, issues on cooperation between both countries was discussed. [passage omitted]

The mutual wish was expressed to enhance bilateral contacts on a parliamentary level. Taking part in the meeting was Altynbek Sarsenbayev, minister of press and mass media of Kazakhstan.

Sultanov also received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi. During the meeting it was agreed that it is necessary to enhance contacts in order that both peoples may learn about each other's culture more deeply. [passage omitted]

The deputy chairman of the Supreme Kenges expressed his confidence for the smooth implementation of the mutual agreements and enhanced prospects.

SHAPE Chief Leads NATO Delegation Visit

LD1506092594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Today, at the house of parliament, the NATO delegation led by General Peter Heinrich Carstens, chief of staff of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe [SHAPE], was received. In the conversation that took place, deputy speaker Kuanysh Sultanov told the guest that Kazakhstan's new foreign policy is based on that of a non-nuclear country. The parliament, he stressed, endorsed the fundamentals of the defense doctrine. Much attention is paid to building and developing the armed forces. He expressed hope for the possibility of cooperation with all NATO member states for the sake of preserving peace and good relations.

The general spoke about the concept of the Partnership for Peace program and its future development. He expressed satisfaction that three Central Asian states, including Kazakhstan, signed the document on cooperation in the framework of their program. At its early stage, establishment of political contacts is envisaged. In September, the first joint military training exercise will take place, and observers from Kazakhstan are invited to participate.

Industrial Output in Semipalatinsk Declines 30 Percent

LD1506124294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0100 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] This year, under various pretexts, over 60 industrial enterprises in Semipalatinsk Oblast have come to a standstill. Over 20,000 workers have lost their jobs. In addition, small businesses, with a total work force of over 3,500 workers, have also discontinued work. Over 20 other enterprises of the oblast, which employ a total of about 6,500 people, are working half days. The oblast's industrial output has declined by 30 percent, as compared with last year.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Addresses International Forum in Bishkek

LD1406113794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Participants in an international forum, "Kyrgyzstan is Our Common Home," which is in progress in Bishkek, are discussing the diversity of problems connected with the life of the Russian—or even broader—the Slavic diaspora in Kyrgyzstan. The forum was convened at the initiative and under the patronage of President Akayev.

It is not by chance that Akayev is taking an active part in all the events of the forum. Last Saturday [11 June] was a really Russian day in Akayev's life. Apart from his speech at the opening ceremony and his interested participation in a roundtable discussion on Russians in Kyrgyzstan, Akayev also spoke at the opera and ballet house during a solemn evening devoted to the 195th anniversary of Pushkin.

On the eve of the forum, in a conversation with Mikhail Romanov, ambassador of Russia to Kyrgyzstan, Akayev noted that it would have been much better not to exchange reprimands addressed to each other but to get together and to discuss in full detail the problems connected with the life of the Russian and other Slavic peoples in Kyrgyzstan.

The president has done his part to hold a discussion that is highly useful. First, a large group of the forum's participants was brought from Moscow to Bishkek at his personal invitation and on his personal plane—a group that included renowned political scientists, historians, lawyers, sociologists, former state figures who worked in Kyrgyzstan, and Russian and foreign journalists. [passage omitted]

Second, and important, the president provided the right direction for the discussion in his speech at the opening of the forum. This speech, in the opinion of the forum's many participants, was very deep, frank, and intellectually rich, as well as thought-provoking, analytical, and scientific, and it was based on facts and arguments rather than on emotions.

Discussing the Republic's economic prospects, Akayev said he had to be honest with his people and to admit that Kyrgyzstan would remain at the outskirts of the world economy for a long time—at least for the next 10 years. The Republic is not able to maintain its production structure and its infrastructure at the moment and has been forced to eliminate a number of specific areas of more or less outdated production and stop them.

Akayev said that Kyrgyzstan does not have any other way out. The population's living standard is very low. Possibilities to save on wage payments and on turnover capital attract foreign investors to us. Nevertheless, the profit of such investments is reduced to zero because of very low skill and labor productivity levels. In a nutshell, it is difficult to expect that the rating of our Republic will sharply increase with regard to foreign investments in the next 10-15 years. I cannot avoid speaking about such issues as the impoverishment of our liberal arts intelligentsia and the reduction of the number of students, coupled with the decreased quality of training, Akayev said.

The "Kyrgyzstan is Our Common Home" forum will end on 17 June.

Further on Akayev Address

LD1406155894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 14 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan will have to remain outside the big economy for many years, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said last weekend during the conference 'Kyrgyzstan is our single house' in Bishkek.

He believes that Kyrgyzstan was in an unfavorable geo-political situation since it had no access to the sea or other "trade communications." Akayev underlined that in the near future the Republic would depend on the neighboring countries, especially on Russia since Kyrgyzstan along with the whole Central Asian region was not in the sphere of interests of the economically developed countries.

Akayev suggested that no serious foreign investments were likely to be attracted by the industrial potential of Kyrgyzstan since the Republic was failing to maintain the industrial infrastructure. "Since Kyrgyzstan has no other choice, the government has to suspend activities of many enterprises," Akayev said.

Akayev emphasized that foreign investors were not eager to place their money to the Kyrgyz economy since they were lacking political stability in Kyrgyzstan and guarantees. "That is why it is hard to believe that the rating of Kyrgyzstan as a developing country will go up in the near ten or fifteen years," Akayev regretted.

He was sure that the economic and social problems experienced by Kyrgyzstan could be overcome only through cooperation with Russia. The main point here is to enhance the economic relations and mutually beneficial industrial cooperation with Russia. However, he had to stress that the trade and economic relations between the two countries were decreasing and coming to a critical point. (INTERFFAX Note: Before 1992 the trade turnover between Kyrgyzstan and Russia was 70 pct of the whole volume of that for Kyrgyzstan. In the first quarter of 1994 it significantly went down. Russia found itself in the third place after Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.)

Akayev suggested that a joint Kyrgyz-Russian holding company must be created with the authorized capital of 30 billion or 50 billion Russian rubles. The company would focus on restoration of the bilateral trade and economic and industrial relations.

Akayev thought that the company must be accumulating money resources and ensure participation of Russian citizens in privatization in Kyrgyzstan. The company must also be carrying out trust operations with the real estate of the population leaving the Republic and contributing to development of the small and average business by Russian-speaking citizens. The company could also be organizing mass travel tours to Kyrgyzstan by Russian tourists.

Akayev regretted that Russia had not as yet responded to his proposals stated in 1993.

The Kyrgyz president also pointed out that since industrial relations with Russia were being broken the number of Russians migrating was increasing, especially of Russians working at industrial enterprises.

Akayev said that the emigration of Russia-speaking population was a catastrophe not only for Kyrgyzstan but also for Russia since it was difficult to receive hundreds of thousands of Russians coming from Kyrgyzstan. (INTERFAX Note: In 1990 there were about 918,000 Russians in Kyrgyzstan (21.2 pct of the Kyrgyz population). On 1 April 1994, there were about 750,000 Russians living in Kyrgyzstan (17 pct). For the first time in the Soviet and post-Soviet time in Kyrgyzstan the total number of the Kyrgyz population has decreased due to the migration by Russians. Currently, there are about 4.4299 million people living in Kyrgyzstan (the number fixed on 1 January 1994). This is 40,000 people fewer that it was on 1 January 1993.)

Akayev pointed out that the departure of Russian specialists was doing a significant harm to the Kyrgyz economy.

Kyrgyz experts consider the deteriorating economic situation in Kyrgyzstan as the main reason for migration. Russian experts see social and political reasons as essential, Akayev said. For instance, Russian experts believe that the transition to the Kyrgyz language as the official one was forcing Russians out of many spheres. There were certain cases of discrimination in the sphere of entrepreneurship and of nationalism in everyday life which were not neither encouraged nor condemned by the official authorities. Akayev stressed he would listen to such conclusions by Russian experts.

However, Akayev categorically disagreed that Russians in Kyrgyzstan had no future. He said such suggestions had no ground and must not be admitted.

Commenting on the problem with the migration, Akayev said that its settlement would also depend on participation of Russia since Kyrgyzstan could not resolve all the problems on its own.

Akayev regretted that the proposal to adopt a declaration on the rights of ethnic minorities stated at the recent CIS summit had been put aside.

Akayev was certain that all ethnic minorities in Kyrgyzstan must have a quota in the parliament and in the local bodies. He thought that the Russian language must be made the official one in the regions mostly populated by Russians. Akayev spoke in favor of dual citizenship for Russians.

The Kyrgyz president suggested that the issue on dual citizenship could be solved following the example of the European Union after the Maastricht treaty.

Akayev refuted the allegations that he could not make an independent decision on this issue as a president. He just stressed that in accordance with the Constitution the issues on dual citizenship and state languages must be decided upon by the parliament.

Akayev said he could not confront the parliament which mostly was not in favor of adopting such decisions. The president believes that it is necessary to work with the public opinion before these problems be settled.

During a meeting with the heads of the local administration on Monday Akayev emphasized his intention to strengthen the state power.

He made it clear that the point was not to alter the general policy but to review the former concepts which had proved themselves illusory and inadequate. The new realities make change the guidelines.

Akayev stressed that he remain a faithful supporter of democracy. However, he believes that life has shown democratic means as inefficient and hindering implementation of the reforms.

There is no alternative to a strong state power in the Republic since the people were not ready for democratic self-rule, Akayev said.

The Kyrgyz president stated that he would remove everybody who would hamper implementation of state decisions and the program of the structural reorganization of the economy planned for the next three years.

Akayev said many people wanted a tough authoritarian regime to be established in the Republic similar to that in other CIS states. However, in his opinion, this would bring no results.

Akayev suggested that the parliamentarianism in Kyrgyzstan had made the Supreme Soviet get involved with political and criminal investigations rather than perform its legislative functions. The parliament had become a substitute for the state committee on security, the Interior Ministry and the courts which was frightening potential investors.

"Many people in Kyrgyzstan have regarded the parliament as an apotheoses of democracy. However, the activities of the present parliament are braking the reforms and create such a reputation to Kyrgyzstan, which makes it look as a scandalous country," Akayev said.

Russian Considered State Language To Slow Emigration

LD1406142694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian language will be considered as a state one in Kyrgyzstan's regions mostly populated by the Russian-speaking population, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev stated in his decree, which he read out during a meeting with the Slav community on Tuesday [14 June] in Bishkek.

Akayev said the decree had been issued in order to prevent further growth in the number of the Russian-speaking people emigrating from Kyrgyzstan.

The Kyrgyz Government will try to ensure equal representation of the Slav community in the state and local administration.

The decree also provides for guaranteed representation of the ethnic minorities in all state power bodies. Within a month the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry will work out proposals on the acquisition of citizenship for Russian-speaking inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan leaving for Russia and for those willing to come back to Kyrgyzstan from Russia. The proposals will be coordinated with the Russian party.

The Kyrgyz Interior Ministry and the National Security Committee will strengthen their struggle against nationalism.

Akayev suggested that the migration by the Russian-speaking population was causing large damage to the potential of Kyrgyzstan on the whole. He emphasized that increasing migration was due to the problems with the language, insufficient representation in the state bodies and other official structures and the display of nationalism in everyday life.

Akayev announced that he had prepared one more letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin asking Russia to help Kyrgyzstan to resolve the economic problems. Akayev stressed that these issues must be settled urgently if Russia was interested in ensuring the position of Russians living in Kyrgyzstan.

Further on Akayev Decree

LD1506075994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0744 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek 15 June TASS—Kirghizian [Kyrgyzstan] President Asker Akayev has issued a decree on "measures to regulate migration processes from the Republic of Kirghizia" today in his bid to stop or at least beat down the wave of the Russian-speaking population's migration from the Republic.

The document demands to make Russian an official language together with the Kirghiz language in areas

predominantly populated by Russian-speaking people. According to the head of state's instructions, it is necessary to do it in all vital branches of the country's economy, where the use of achievements of science and technology is linked with the use of the Russian language, such as public health, mathematics and technical sciences.

The decree instructs the government to extend the transition timetable set for the use of the national language in business correspondence, and secure a just representation of the Russian-speaking population in state structures from the highest to the lowest rung.

The Foreign Ministry has been instructed to coordinate a simplified procedure of receiving the Russian and regaining the Kirgiz citizenship with corresponding departments of the Russian federation.

This document concludes with a decisive demand from the law enforcement bodies to intensify combatting all kinds of manifestations of nationalism.

Among noteworthy "achievements" of documents, decisions and decrees issued during the past few years are either their slow implementation or their existence only on paper. For example, the preceding decree on the change over to the use of the Kirghiz language in business correspondence has almost been neglected.

The latest decree, which runs counter to the Constitution adopted on 5 May 1993, might become a restraining factor for the migration, and unite the opposition. More so, because almost all structures of power have become multi-national during the past three years. Decisive reshuffles of the personnel, as demanded by the presidential decree, may be sabotaged and eventually undermine Kirghizia's economy which is already living through a deep crisis.

President, Prime Minister Dismiss Rayon Chiefs

LD1506105294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dzhumagulov signed a resolution "On dismissing the heads of rayon state administrations" in accordance with which Torebekov Orozbek is relieved of his post as head of the Karabura rayon state administration of Talas oblast for shortcomings in his work and lack of exactingness to the personnel and for the economic situation in his rayon; Sisenov Dzolboldy is relieved of the post of head of the Suzak rayon state administration of Dzhelalabad oblast for serious shortcomings in implementing the land and agrarian reforms; Bekishev Bekbola is dismissed from the post of head of the Uchterek rayon state administration of Dzhelalabad oblast for discrediting the idea of land and agrarian reform which was expressed in many complaints about his incompetent approach to the creation of a pluralistic economic structure in the rural area.

These resolutions of the government were submitted to the president of the Kyrgyz Republic for confirmation. President Akayev issued an order confirming the prime minister's resolution.

New Head of Naryn Rayon Administration Appointed

LD1506091494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] By order of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, the prime minister's decision to appoint Bekturov Orozbek Akmatovich as head of the Naryn rayon state administration of Naryn oblast has been confirmed.

Debts to Uzbekistan for Natural Gas May Interrupt Supplies

LD1406130394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] There is a natural gas problem in Kyrgyzstan again. RIA was told by the government's press service that debt for gas to neighboring Uzbekistan currently amounts to approximately 10 million U.S. dollars. The lion's share of that sum consists of the debts of the Republic's industrial sector due to its insolvency. The government and local administrations are also unable to subsidize gas consumption for the private sector. Kyrgyz authorities have been instructed to review gas charges with a view toward raising them, as a solution to a situation in which Uzbekistan may, at any moment, turn off the tap of natural gas supplies.

Tajikistan

2d Round of Peace Talks To Open 18 Jun in Tehran

LD1506082394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0130 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The second round of Tajikistan's peace talks will commence on 18 June in Tehran.

The office of the UN secretary general announced that the talks, which are aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Tajikistan, will be chaired by Ramero Piriz Ballon, an envoy of the secretary general.

In addition to Tajik Government authorities and the government opposition groups, the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, and CSCE will attend the talks.

Russian Officer Killed in Khatlon Region

LD1506051994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0454 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Jun—Mikhail Osipov, commander of the 191st company of the 201st Motorized Infantry Regiment of the collective peacekeeping forces, was killed on Tuesday [14 June] in the Tajik town of Kurgan-Tyube (the administrative centre of Khatlon region). ITAR-TASS learned at the press centre of the joint command of the collective peacekeeping forces that the 30-year-old lieutenant was shot at about 23 hours local time (2200 hours Moscow time) from an automatic weapon by unidentified persons while checking on a street patrol. The motives of the murder are being established. An investigation into the circumstances of the crime has begun.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Urges 'Closer Integration' in CIS

PM1406154094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with President Geydar Aliyev by Pavel Alekseyev, datelined Baku and Moscow; date, place of interview not given: "Geydar Aliyev: We Only Want One Thing—for the Truth To Be Known"]

[Text] [Alekseyev] It will soon be a year since you became president of Azerbaijan. Yet not many years ago most people were sure that G. Aliyev's political career was over....

[Aliyev] You could say I did not come here at my own volition. After leaving the Politburo in 1987 because of serious disagreements with the USSR leadership, including Gorbachev personally, I did not engage in political activity. When, in late 1990, I was not allowed to live in Baku and found refuge in Nakhichevan, again I did not want to get involved in political life. But in 1991 a very difficult situation arose. That autonomous republic within Azerbaijan is detached from the state's main territory and borders on Iran, Turkey, and Armenia, and therefore, as a result of the war, it found itself blockaded. For some days the people held rallies in the squares, demanding that I become head of the republic's Supreme Council, and I was obliged to do so. I started work. It is a very complex region, our life was not without its difficulties, but it is at least peaceful, unless you count minor border clashes.

There is no war there now either, and there is not the same crime situation as before. Turkey has granted Nakhichevan $100 million of credit. We immediately released $20 million of that to buy food, and that also alleviated the situation. And I thought that this autonomous republic would be my last abode.

But in June last year the power struggle in Azerbaijan was stepped up and the republic found itself on the brink of civil war. Then the Azerbaijani leadership, in the person of President Abulfaz Elchibey, appealed to me to come and help lead the republic out of the crisis. I did not want to return, but then I decided that it is wrong to stay on the sidelines if your people are in trouble. Unfortunately, two days after I entered on duty as chairman of the Azerbaijan National Assembly, President Elchibey left Baku in secret and has been in a Nakhichevan mountain village ever since. I was left alone. And for 11 months now I have been trying to sort out the situation in the republic.

[Alekseyev] What are the basic problems facing Azerbaijan at present?

[Aliyev] We are going through a very difficult period. The transition from a situation in which we were all part of a single Soviet state to the formation of independence and the consolidation of sovereignty is very difficult in itself. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that all the former USSR republics were very closely interlinked, especially in the economy, and the severance of ties had a very severe effect on Azerbaijan's economy. Then again, the republic is making the transition from one economic system to another, from the socialist economic system, with its laws and principles, to a free market economy. Finally, the third factor complicating the socioeconomic situation in Azerbaijan is the war. It has now been going on for six years, some 20 percent of the republic's territory is occupied, and there are more than 1 million refugees.

[Alekseyev] What can you say about the causes of the conflict, and what must be done to stop it?

[Aliyev] It was not the Azerbaijani side that started this war. There is no point now in analyzing what happened, but I will say one thing. When it all began, Azerbaijan was part of a single centralized state—the USSR, and therefore the Union leadership could have prevented the outbreak of conflict. Or else, if conflict had begun, prevented it from developing. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The Karabakh conflict was the first on the USSR's territory, and look how many hot spots have developed now.

Azerbaijan is now waging a war to preserve its territorial integrity. But all this time I have been trying to put an end to the war through talks. There has been a cease-fire since 10 May. Talks are now under way with the participation of the CSCE Minsk Group and Russia. Maybe it will be possible at last to reach an accord to eliminate the conflict. But on one condition: that the Armenian armed formations free all the occupied Azerbaijani territory, except, of course, Nagorno-Karabakh. Then we can conduct talks on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Alekseyev] During the Bishkek talks there was talk of disengagement forces....

[Aliyev] Look. Whatever happens, in order to stop the war, monitor compliance with the cease-fire accord, and ensure the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations, forces of some kind are certainly needed. The CSCE Minsk Group sees these forces as observers. Russia considers it possible to send in so-called CIS peacekeeping disengagement forces, but this question is still at the stage of talks.

[Alekseyev] How would you assess the situation in the Caucasus? There has been much talk recently of how Russia still has no clear political concept with regard to that region.

[Aliyev] It is hard for me to say whether Russia has a clear stance or not. But it is a fact that the Caucasus is a very complex region and requires a more thoughtful, considered, very wise approach. Russia is a great country. And the Caucasus has been part of it for more than 200 years—be it czarist Russia or the USSR, in which the Russian Federation was dominant. And Russia should have the same attitude to all the republics

of the Caucasus. If there is a slant in one direction or another, it will lead to complications, and, naturally, the loss of its prestige in the region. There should, I repeat, be a very carefully considered approach, irrespective of whether Russia had closer historical links with one people, irrespective of religion. It seems to me that Russia will then have more prestige in the Caucasus, and the Caucasus will be assured of greater tranquillity. And greater tranquillity in the Caucasus means greater tranquillity in Russia.

[Alekseyev] For two years now the former republics have been trying to resolve the problem of the severance of ties in the post-Soviet area within the framework of the CIS. How do you assess that organization's activity and future?

[Aliyev] The organization has a future, I believe. It is needed so that each republic can develop more successfully. That was why, when I became leader of Azerbaijan, I made great efforts to create an atmosphere of trust in the CIS and the right conditions for joining the Commonwealth.

To tell the truth, it was not easy. By virtue of various circumstances, a very negative attitude to the CIS had developed in Azerbaijan. I am not saying everyone felt that way, but the vast majority did. First and foremost, the events of 20 January 1990 had very serious moral effects on the people. On the other hand, the People's Front, while in power, vigorously cultivated anti-Russian sentiments. So it took some months to overcome those sentiments in the public consciousness. And on 24 September last year we joined the CIS. I think it was a necessary and important step, and Azerbaijan should remain in the CIS in future. But as for the Commonwealth's practical activity, I would not say the organization has really become established or is functioning properly as yet. It seems somehow that during the meetings of heads of state, which last a day and a half or two days, the CIS exists, but in the intervals between meetings it does not. Therefore, in my view, very energetic measures are needed to enable the CIS to function more successfully.

[Alekseyev] And what does that require? Some kind of supranational structures, perhaps?

[Aliyev] I do not consider that expedient. That implies the resurrection of a unified state, the possibility of impinging on national interests. The former republics are now independent states, and they cannot agree to that. But it is essential to have closer integration.

[Alekseyev] Previously, in the USSR, much was said about the friendship of peoples. In the CIS, they discuss every question under the sun expcept for this one. Does it not seem to you that now, of all times, this is what is needed?

[Aliyev] The question is indeed very important. At the meeting in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], I stated officially that I consider it abnormal to have a situation whereby two states belonging to one alliance fight among themselves. But I got no response. A second time, in Moscow on 15 April, I again raised the question of how the CIS was created for the purposes of uniting to defend the interests of our alliance, which is why it is unacceptable for two members of the alliance to fight among themselves, and that such a thing had never been seen in world practice. And again this question was not discussed. But you know, alongside military and economic aspects, the CIS needs a moral climate: What is needed is the strengthening of the friendship of peoples as a means of avoiding future conflicts and hostility toward one another. The CIS should extend its functions to the humanitarian sphere too, to the strengthening of mutual relations between nations and peoples, but in order to do this it is necessary for mutual relations inside the CIS itself to be warm and friendly.

[Alekseyev] In your short time as president, you have shown exceptional diplomatic energy. How would you describe Azerbaijan's political orientation in the international arena?

[Aliyev] I deem it a success that I managed to turn around criticism of mutual relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan toward a positive direction. I met with B. Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin and other officials, we signed a number of very important documents, and we joined the CIS. That is, my first steps were aimed at restoring good relations with Russia. And this policy will continue: For Azerbaijan, Russia is both a close neighbor, and a large country with which the lives of many of the republic's citizens, living both in Azerbaijan and Russia, are linked.

Naturally, we favor the establishment of friendly relations with all neighboring countries—with Turkey, for instance. These relations were good before, but my visit to Turkey, and the treaty we signed, strengthened our relations still further. Another neighbor is Iran—we have a very long common border, and traditional links. Admittedly, the previous leadership did not accord the necessary significance to relations with Iran, and a certain tension arose in our relations. But during a visit to Baku by President Rafsanjani in October, we signed a number of documents.

Georgia is also our neighbor—600,000 Azerbaijanis live there—and President Shevardnadze also visited us.

As for other countries, as we move along the road toward building a democratic, rule-of-law state, so we have a great need to develop relations with Western countries with traditions and experience in the sphere of democracy and a market economy. Therefore, I accepted an invitation from the leaders of Great Britain and France, John Major and Francois Mitterrand, to visit those states, and we had fairly fruitful talks.

[Alekseyev] You spend a great deal of time on foreign policy, problems within the republic, the Karabakh conflict.... Who helps you in doing so? From the sidelines,

just one figure is visible above Azerbaijan's entire political horizon—President Geydar Aliyev....

[Aliyev] I have already said that I did not return to Baku at my own volition and I did not plan to get involved in politics. This probably sounds rather high-flown, but the people called me. Therefore, I did not bring any team of my own with me, nor did I prepare one. Admittedly, I know Azerbaijan well, but I left in 1982—in this time, an entire generation of leaders has been replaced. I have no party of my own, I work with the people who are there now.

[Alekseyev] What would you like to say to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA readers?

[Aliyev] I want them to know one thing: I, as president, will put all my effort into this job, and I will strive for friendly relations with Russia.

Political Parties Condemn Aliyev Headquarters Attack

NC1406200894 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 14 (TURAN)—The press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a statement regarding the explosion in the headquarters of the Yeni Azerbaycan [New Azerbaijan] party and called it "open political terror".

The Ministry of Internal Affairs said that it will take drastic measures against those who are trying to destabilize the situation in the country.

The assault on the headquarters of the Yeni Azerbaycan party, whose Chairman is President Aliyev, took place on June 12 at night when the building was empty. The building was fired at from machine guns and then there was explosion inside.

Several parties, including the opposition parties of the Musavat, Azerbaijan Democratic Party and the Popular [People's] Front issued a statement in which they condemned this act of terrorism at the headquarters of Yeni Azerbaycan. The parties expressed concern about the fact that such acts against political parties are taking place with alarming frequency.

The opposition parties demanded the creation of normal conditions for the activities of all parties in keeping with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Guseynov Requests Removal of Ganja Crimes Trial Judge

NC1406200994 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 14 (TURAN)—Azerbaijan's Prime Minister, Suret Guseynov, issued a protest against Judge Shahin Rustamov, who is presiding over the trial on the case of June events of 1993.

The Premier sent the letter to the Judicial Collegiate, which is examinining the crimes committed in the city of Ganja on June 4, 1993, with a request to remove Shahin Rustamov, as concerned person, from his duties.

Suret Guseynov, who is testifying as a witness to the Ganja events, said that Rustamov was appointed Chairman of the Judicial Collegiate of Azerbaijan's Supreme Court by the former Chairman of the Parliament, Isa Gambar [Kamberov] who is himself presently on trial. Suret Guseynov also states that Shahin Rustamov was appointed to this office as an active leader of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan].

Shahin Rustamov was himself involved in the process because following the June events he was stripped of his duties as Chairman of the Judicial Collegiate of the Supreme Court.

The trial concerning the Ganja events began on April 29 and has since been developing in an unfavorable direction.

As was earlier reported, on June 4, 1993 an armed conflict arose between the motor-infantry brigade headed by Suret Guseynov and govermental troops under the President Elchibey.

This accident inflicted a defeat on the Popular [People's] Front of Azerabijan.

Karabakh Official on St Petersburg Meeting

NC1406140494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0700 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("YERKIR" daily - Haylur), 06/14/94—A "Haylur" correspondent met Acting Chairman of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Supreme Council Karen Baburyan, who just returned from St. Petersburg, and asked to comment on the results of the meeting.

"I met Chairmen of Armenian and Azeri parliaments, Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly V. Shumeyko, Chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Council and Chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Group on Karabakh M. Sherimkulov, Special Envoy of the Russian President V. Kazimirov in St. Petersburg.

The essence of the meeting was that the Bishkek agreement exists, and (development in) this (direction) should continue. The session of the Interparliamentarian assembly discussed the ways of resolving the Abkhazian conflict. Several announcements were made regarding the Karabakh conflict, but no concrete documents have been signed. The agreements were mainly oral. One of the most important, is about creation and functioning of CIS peace-making forces. These were the most important problems discussed in St. Petersburg.

I may add that I visited Moscow before the St. Petersburg meeting, and met the leaders of the Russian parliament. We discussed the details and ways of resolving the

Karabakh conflict. This all has once again been confirmed in St. Petersburg. Active work will start in a few days, in order to support the efforts of the parliamentarians by actions of executive bodies."

Georgia

Shevardnadze Meets With World Bank Officials

LD1406200094 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1327 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Yesterday, 13 June, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze received a World Bank delegation led by the head of the bank's Europe and Central Asia department, Mr. Blinkhorn.

The Georgian leader briefed guests on the current situation in the republic, stressing that as a result of reforms that had been implemented recently signs of stabilization were emerging in the country. Shevardnadze said that a fast pace of privatization would create a real basis for the development of business.

For their part, World Bank representatives said that their program envisaged rendering aid to Georgia in the near future, particularly for the winter season. The program also envisaged investment in the republic and the provision of technical assistance initially to Tbilisi, Poti, and Batumi, and later to other regions.

The head of state thanked delegation members for their interest in Georgia and assured them of all-round assistance from the republic's government.

Faction Protests Russian Move Into Conflict Zone

LD1406201894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The Georgian United Republican Party parliamentary faction has categorically protested the introduction of the Russian parachute regiment stationed in Gudauta (Abkhazia) to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The faction, which includes 21 deputies, circulated a statement saying that this very regiment was fighting against the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia and was the first to come to Sukhumi.

Deputy Jaba Ioseliani said in parliament today that under a special Russian-Georgian agreement the Gudauta regiment would not be brought to the security zone on the Inguri River.

Ioseliani intended to meet Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev on June 15 in order to discuss the details of implementation of the peacekeeping operation in the conflict zone.

UN Observers Arrive in Sukhumi 15 Jun

LD1506101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi June 15 TASS—Four U.N. military observers arrived in Sukhumi on Wednesday to monitor a CIS peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia, a spokesman in the Abkhazian Ministry of Information and the Press, told ITAR-TASS.

According to the same source, a total of 88 U.N. observers are to be posted in the area of the deployment of a CIS peace-keeping force along Inguri river.

General supervision will be exercised by Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defence minister, from the Russian peace- keeping force headquarters in Sukhumi.

100,000 Mines To Be Cleared

LD1506085494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0819 GMT 15 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Sukhumi June 15 TASS—Demining of the Abkhazian territory, where according to experts some 100,000 mines have been placed in two years of ethnic war, is the most complicated task of the first stage of deploying Russian peace-keepers in the region and its implementation will take a very long time.

"In two years of combat activities a huge amount of mines and explosives has been placed. There are no mining maps and sappers face a hard job which will last for several months", Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev, who is in charge of the peace-keeping operation, told TASS on Wednesday.

However, military experts believe the complete demining of Abkhazia will take years as the number of mines in the region exceeds that in another "hot spot", the Dniester region in Moldavia [Moldova], where demining has been going on for two years. According to experts, 40,000 mines have been placed along the Gumista River in Abkhazia.

Sappers will first begin working in places where command posts of the peace-keepers will be situated. The unified headquarters will be located in Sukhumi in the sanatorium of the Moscow Military District. The headquarters of the Western control group will be deployed in the city of Zugdidi.

After demining of the command post sites is completed, Russian paratroopers will begin deployment along the Inguri River which divides Georgia and Abkhazia. The warring units are to withdraw 12 kilometres from the river and concentrate their units and armoured vehicles in specified places.

Estonia

Two Liberal Democrat Ministers Resign

LD1406113894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Culture and Education Minister Paul-Eerik Rummo and Finance Minister Heiki Kranich [both members of the Liberal Democratic Party] announced their resignations at today's meeting of the government. The meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party's leadership which began at 1300 is expected to decide that the party will leave the government coalition.

Foreign Ministry on Resumption of Talks With Russia

WS1506095894 Tallinn BNS in English 1508 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Tallinn, June 14, BNS—Talks continue in Moscow today between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin and a deputy chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Raul Malk, a spokesman at the Foreign Ministry in Tallinn said.

Churkin and Malk held their first talks in Tallinn June 7 and 8 without any tangible result toward resolving the tangled state in relations between the two countries. But both parties at the Tallinn talks said they will continue active contacts.

Churkin told reporters before leaving Tallinn that "with good will, there is nothing unrealistic" about the Aug. 31, 1994, troop withdrawal deadline. In his words, there has to be a firm basis in terms of agreements to proceed energetically with what is necessary to complete the withdrawal.

The Russian diplomat said a "realistic agreement that is up to the very high international standards of human rights" is needed to remove the tensions in Estonian-Russian relations. He voiced hope that such an agreement will be concluded.

Both Churkin and his Estonian partner in talks were short-spoken when commenting on actual progress in hammering out such agreements.

"(There is) nothing concrete to announce at this stage," Malk said. "Over the course of two days we have had good talks. ... We have just agreed that we will continue as soon as possible."

Churkin, too, noted that talks with Malk were at a stage when it was premature to get more specific. In his words, an agreement was reached that the talks would soon continue and that Malk may go to Moscow already next week.

"It seems to me that (we talked) with a sincere attempt on both sides to solve as quickly as possible those questions which still remain, in order that we can turn the page, perhaps even finish an entire chapter in the history of our relations," Churkin told reporters June 8.

Cabinet Approves, Rejects Several Bilateral Agreements

WS1506095694 Tallinn BNS in English 1508 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Tallinn, June 14, BNS—The Estonian Cabinet at a meeting today approved an economic and trade agreement between Estonia and Australia, as well as an agreement with Island [as received] on avoiding double taxation and prevention of tax evasion.

The Cabinet issued its approval for a trilateral intergovernmental agreement of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on assistance in customs affairs. Prime Minister Mart Laar at a press conference said the document is expected to be signed at a prime ministers meeting of the three countries Sept. 13.

The ministers decided not to approve a business and trade agreement between the governments of Estonia and Canada, as well as a scientific and technical cooperation agreement with the United States government. Both drafts were referred to the ministries concerned for further reviewing.

Latvia

Alksnis Warns of Ethnic Cleansing in Latvia

LD1406163794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Viktor Alksnis, former USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, today reminded us of his existence.

[Correspondent Irina Zaytseva] Viktor Alksnis, born 1950, Latvian, former deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the former USSR, soldier, resigned from the Army in order to fight for the restoration of the USSR. During the October events he left the White House with a head wound and was taken to hospital.

After a long interval Viktor Alksnis held a news conference today in the Slavjanskaya Hotel. He began it with a short statement, the essence of which comes down to the fact that the adoption of the Latvian citizenship law violates not only human rights, but creates the conditions for a conflict similar, in his opinion, to the ones in Yugoslavia and the Caucasus. It was not only the Latvian Government Alksnis accused of this, but also the United States. According to him, during the latest visit to the United States by [Latvian President] Guntis Ulmanis, sanction was obtained for the adoption of the aforementioned discriminatory law.

[Begin Alksnis recording] And thus carte blanche was given for mild ethnic cleansing of the Russian speaking population of the republic. [end recording]

[Zaytseva] Apart from that, Alksnis added, according to information received from reliable sources, certain circles in Moscow want conflict in Latvia.

[Begin Alksnis recording] A certain scenario exists to drive a so-called security corridor along the route Daugavpils-Yekabpils-Riga where stringent ethnic cleansing of the Latvian population will take place in reply to the mild ethnic cleansing of the Russian population in order to bring so-called independent Latvia to its knees. [end recording]

[Zaytseva] Journalists asked for more precise information about what Alksnis called reliable sources.

[Begin Alksnis recording] You understand that I cannot name these sources. But I can say that they are fairly authoritative. [end recording]

[Zaytseva] Asked what he intends to do, Alksnis said his opportunities are unfortunately limited, and that is why he is appealing to journalists. In his opinion, only joint efforts can bring this information to the attention of world public opinion, point out the seriousness of this issue, and avoid the coming tragedy.

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